

New Hope Church Statement of Faith

1. **Authority:** We believe that the Holy Bible is the final authority in faith and practice. This church recognizes that it cannot bind the conscience of individual members in areas where Scripture is silent. Rather, each believer is to be led in those areas by the Lord, to whom he or she alone is ultimately responsible. We believe that every Christian's purpose in life is to glorify God, grow in Christ, and help other to grow towards Christ. (1Cor. 4:2, Col. 1:28, 1Tim. 6:6-9, Heb. 10:24-25, 1Pet. 1:14-15, 2Pet. 3:18)
2. **The Bible:** We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, complete as the revelation of God's will for salvation and the supreme and final authority in faith and life. (2Tim. 3:16-17, 2Pet. 1-19-21)
3. **The Trinity:** We believe in one God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. (Gen. 1:26, Deut. 6:4, Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19)
4. **God the Father:** We believe in God the Father, and infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from eternal death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (John 16: 23-27, Gal. 4: 4-6, Eph. 1:3, 17-23)
5. **God the Son:** We believe in Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son. He is fully God and fully man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We believe that He lived a sinless life on earth and died a substitutionary death on the cross that His sacrifice for the sins of all men satisfied God's justice, and that all who believe in Him are freed from the penalty of sin and made acceptable before God on the grounds of His sin-payment and His righteousness. We believe in His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His current ministry of intercession on behalf of His people, and His eminent visible return from heaven. (Matt. 1:18-23, Luke 24: 1-8, John 1:1, 14; Acts 1:11; 2Cro. 5:19-21; Heb. 4:14-16, 1John 2:1; Rev. 19, 20)
6. **God the Holy Spirit:** We believe in the Holy Spirit. He is fully God, sent into the world by the Father and the Son to apply the saving work of Christ to men. He enlightens the minds of sinners, awakens in them recognition of their need of a Savior, and brings rebirth and renewal to them. At the point of salvation, He permanently indwells every believer, and uniquely endows each believer with gifts for building up the Church, Christ's body, and produces the spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Matt. 28:19-20; John 3:5, Acts 1:8, 5:3-4; 1Cor. 6:11, 19, 12: 4-13; Gal. 5:22, 23; Eph. 3:6, 4-11-16, 1Pet. 4-10)
7. **God' Eternal Purpose:** We believe God's eternal purpose began before the beginning of the universe. God's purpose for mankind is for someone from every tribe, tongue, nation and people to worship Him forever more. God's eternal purpose includes us being intimately involved in His purposes. To that end no greater purpose exists than to know God and to make Him, known. God is a jealous God who is rightfully given the

Glory due Him when His creation is redeemed through His Son, Jesus Christ. (Rev. 5:9, 7:9; Psalm 67:1-7; Gen. 12:1-3)

8. **Man:** We believe that God wonderfully and immutably created each person as male or female, in the image of God and free from sin. (Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:18-24; Psalm 139:13-16). We believe that God created marriage to be a lifelong commitment and holy covenant, exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union. (Gen. 2:21-24; 1 Cor. 6:18, 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that men are sinners because of the Fall and because of their own choices in life and are therefore spiritually separated from God. (Gen. 3; Rom. 3:23). We believe that those who repent and trust Christ for salvation are born again spiritually by the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 5:12-21, 6:23, 10:9-10; John 3:5-8).
9. **Salvation:** We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, was paid for by Christ on the cross, is received by faith, and cannot be earned through good works, rituals or Church membership. We also believe that salvation produces a desire to become more like Christ in character and purpose and will at death, lead to eternal life in heaven. (1Tim. 2:4-5; John 1:12, 3:3-7, 5:24; Tit. 3:5; Eph. 2:8-10; Rom. 13:8-10)
10. **The Church:**

We believe that the Church is a spiritual body with Jesus Christ as its head. We believe the Church is made up of all those who have trusted Christ as their Savior and Lord. We believe that Scripture commands believers to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of believer's baptism and communion as the ordinances established by Jesus Christ, fellowship, service to the body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world. We also believe in the interdependence of local churches and mutual submission of believers to each other and their spiritual leaders. We believe that each local church is self-governing in function and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We believe that every person is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life. We also believe that Scripture teaches faithful stewardship of God's resources. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 2:41-47; 1Cor. 11:23-26; Eph. 5:21; Col. 1:18; Heb. 10:24-25; Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1; 1Tim. 2:1-6)
11. **Last Things:** We believe there will be a resurrection of the body for all men and a judgment that will determine the fate of each individual. Unbelievers will be eternally separated from God and believers will be received into eternal communion with God and will be rewarded for works done in this life. (John 5:29; 1Cor. 3:11-15, 15:1-58; 2 Cor. 5:8, 10; Eph. 2:8-9; 1Thess. 4:13-18; 2 John 8; Rev. 19-20)

Nicene Creed (A.D. 325)

This creed was first formulated at the First Ecumenical Council, held at Nicea, located in what is now Turkey, in 325, as a response to the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. It was revised at the Second Ecumenical Council, held at Constantinople in 381 as a response to the Macedonian or Pneumatomachian heresy, which denied the divinity of the Holy Spirit.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Note: The word "catholic" with a lower case 'c' does not mean the Roman Catholic Church, but the universal Christian Church as a whole.

What is the Apostles' Creed?

The Apostles' Creed is a brief formulaic summary of basic Christian teaching, and some believe the creed to have originated with the 12 Apostles of Christ. Among the topics in the Apostles' Creed are God, the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Church, the communion of saints and the end times.

The title of the Apostles' Creed may refer either to the creed's supposed apostolic authorship (though some doubt this authorship, while maintaining the apostolic nature of the doctrine therein), or to the belief that the creed is a faithful representation of the Apostles' doctrine.

Traces or references to the content of the creed are extant in the early centuries of the Church, including in the writings of St. Ambrose and Tertullian.

The Apostles' Creed starts with an acknowledgement of God as creator of all that is, and it proceeds to acknowledge fundamental Christological doctrines, including Christ's sonship, his Incarnation by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, his crucifixion, death, and resurrection. The creed also refers to the Second Coming, when Christ returns at the end of the world as judge.

The creed professes belief in the Holy Spirit and next focuses on the members of the Church in both heaven (the Communion of Saints) and on earth. It closes with an acknowledgement of eternal life with an "Amen."

Traditional English Version

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he [descended](#) into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us (men) and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. (or "into hell") On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.