

## Core Values

Believers in Jesus Christ come from varied backgrounds and may approach a passage of scripture or doctrine from a different perspective. Living Hope Bible Church encourages open and honest discussion around a wide range of subjects. In an effort to have consistency in our teaching and to avoid confusion, the following core values have been adopted. It is important to understand that anyone may attend, serve and even be a member of Living Hope Bible Church and not agree completely with these statements. However, those who serve in leadership or teaching roles are asked to respect these core values and not deliberately promote positions contrary to them.

### 1. **Baptism and Communion**

We believe Christ instituted the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper to be observed by believers until He returns.

We believe the Bible teaches that a profession of faith in Jesus comes before baptism. It is an act of obedience to Jesus' command and not a means of salvation. We believe in water baptism by immersion, where a believer publicly identifies with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. We believe that infants of believing parents may be dedicated to the Lord but should not be baptized until they can personally articulate their faith and the purpose of baptism.

We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death, with the elements representing His body and blood. It is an expression of our faith in His future coming that is to be continually practiced by all believers. We believe every Christian has a right to partake of the elements of the Lord's Supper and that participation must always be preceded by solemn self-examination for unconfessed sin.

### 2. **Eternal Security**

We believe that once a person has believed in Jesus Christ for eternal life, that relationship is secure and guaranteed. The Bible teaches that we become a "child of God" and that we have been justified by faith in Jesus Christ. At no point in our life should we fear that we can lose that which God has promised. Romans 8:1 states that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Our eternal security is a result of God "keeping" us, not us "maintaining" our own salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed in John 10:28-29, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand..." Ephesians 4:30 states that believers are "sealed for the day of redemption".

Faith in Jesus produces radical change away from sinful living in the life of a believer. Jesus warns believers to remain faithful and persevere against false teaching. We believe God disciplines those he loves and corrects sinful actions to bring His children back into fellowship with Him. Our eternal security is based on God's love for those

whom He has redeemed. Our eternal security is purchased by Christ, promised by the Father, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

### **3. End times**

We believe in and expectantly await the glorious, visible, personal, and pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The blessed hope of His return has vital bearing on the personal life, service and mission of the believer.

### **4. Sign Gifts**

We believe that the moment a person is saved, the Spirit of God indwells them. They become a temple of the Holy Spirit and are immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit. We do not practice the “sign gifts” (including speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, revelatory prophecy, or gifts of healing).

### **5. Creation**

We believe that in the beginning God, by the Word of His mouth, created the heavens and the earth in six literal days.

### **6. Human Sexuality**

We believe God created people in His image. He forms and highly values each person’s life from the time of conception (1) until their natural death (2). He assigned gender to His people, male (man) and female (woman). He created them sexually and biologically different, but with equal personal dignity and value (3). We believe in the sanctity of human life.

We believe that God has given each person inherent value and unique characteristics that reflect His character and creativity. These unique traits are to be celebrated. They help each of us experience a more full and rich perspective of God's grace and love (4).

We believe that God ordained marriage as a lifelong union between one man and one woman (5). Those who accept and live within God’s design for sex, biological gender, and marriage, experience the blessing of His good design (6). Decisions to change, alter or modify God’s will in marriage, sex or gender are not part of God’s design and can lead to confusion and despair (7).

God calls any sexual intimacy outside of marriage sexual immorality and sinful behavior (8). The good news is that God loves us and provides redemption, restoration and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ. (9)

Living Hope Bible Church is a loving and safe place for any person struggling with sexual temptations of all kinds. For those struggling with temptation, repenting of sin, and desiring to walk in the truth of God’s Word as one who God called them to be, we provide grace, love, care, and direction to encourage each person to walk in the light of God’s love (10).

## Scripture References

### **Baptism and Communion:**

Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30; Luke 3:21, Acts 2:41; Acts 8:35-38, Acts 16:30-34

### **Eternal Security:**

Matthew 24:10-13, John 1:12, John 3:16-17, John 3:36, John 6:47, John 10:28-29, Rom. 5:1-11, 8:1-39, Eph. 1:1-23, Hebrews 12:5-7, Jude 24

### **End Times:**

1 Thess. 4:13-18, Rev. 19:11-16, 20:1-6, 3:10

### **Creation:**

Psalms 33:6, Gen. 1:1-31, John 1:3, Gen. 1:5,8,13,19,23,31, Exodus 20:8-11, Exodus 31:15-17

### **Human Sexuality:**

(1) Psalm 139:13-16, Isaiah 44:2, 49:5, Jeremiah 1:4-5 (2) Gen. 25:8, Deut. 30:19, Luke 23:46 (3) Gen. 1:26-28  
(4) Rev. 5:9 (5) Gen. 2:18, Matt. 19:4-9, Eph. 5:31-33 (6) Psalm 1:1-3, 128:1-4 (7) Romans 1:21-22, James 1:13-15  
(8) Matthew 15:19; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:4 (9) 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians  
2:1-10; Titus 3:3-7 (10) Matthew 11:28-30, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16