

Statement of Faith

Hope Church Durban

At Hope Church Durban, we believe that truth is not shaped by culture or circumstance but is revealed by God through His Word. In a rapidly changing world, we gladly anchor ourselves in the historic Christian faith and the authority of Scripture. The following convictions guide our teaching, our worship, and our mission.

1. The Authority of Scripture

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired and authoritative Word of God. Scripture was written by human authors under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and is therefore trustworthy, without error in its original writings, and fully sufficient for faith and life.

Because God speaks through His Word, the Bible is the final authority for what we believe and how we live. All teaching, leadership, and practice in the church must be tested against the truth of Scripture.

We therefore seek to read, preach, and obey the Bible faithfully, believing that God uses His Word to shape His people and reveal His will.

2. The Triune God

We believe in one God who eternally exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three persons are equal in power and glory and together are the one true and living God.

God is holy, sovereign, eternal, all-powerful, and perfectly wise. He created all things and sustains all things according to His perfect will. He is both just and merciful, righteous in all His ways, and worthy of all worship and obedience.

3. Creation and Humanity

We believe that God created the world out of nothing and declared it good. Humanity was created in the image of God, designed to live in relationship with Him and to reflect His character in the world.

However, through the disobedience of Adam, sin entered the world and corrupted human nature. As a result, all people are born sinful by nature and are separated from God. Humanity is therefore unable to save itself and stands in need of God's grace and redemption.

4. Salvation by Grace Alone

We believe that salvation is entirely the work of God's grace. Out of His mercy and love, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save sinners.

Jesus lived a perfectly righteous life, died on the cross as a substitute for sinners, and rose bodily from the grave. Through His death and resurrection, He accomplished redemption for all who trust in Him.

Salvation is received by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. No human effort, religious practice, or moral achievement can earn salvation. Those who believe in Christ are forgiven of their sins, declared righteous before God, and adopted into His family.

5. The Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit applies the work of Christ to the hearts of believers. The Spirit brings conviction of sin, grants new birth, and awakens faith in Christ.

Through the Spirit, believers are transformed and empowered to live lives that honour God. The Spirit also equips the church with spiritual gifts, strengthens believers for service, and helps us grow in holiness and love.

6. The Church

We believe that the church is the body of Christ made up of all who have been united to Him by faith. The church exists to worship God, proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and care for one another as a spiritual family.

Local churches gather regularly for the preaching of the Word, prayer, fellowship, and the administration of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. The church is called to be a visible witness to the grace of God in the world.

7. The Christian Life

We believe that those who are saved by grace are called to live lives of grateful obedience. While believers are justified by faith alone, true faith produces a life that increasingly reflects Christ.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of Scripture, Christians grow in holiness, pursue love for neighbour, and seek to honour God in every area of life.

8. God's Mission in the World

We believe that the gospel is good news for all people and that the church is called to proclaim it boldly. Jesus commissioned His followers to make disciples of all nations, and we believe that mission remains central to the life of the church.

As followers of Christ in Durban, we seek to love and serve our city, demonstrate the compassion of Christ, and invite people from every culture and background to experience the hope found in the gospel.

9. The Return of Christ and the New Creation

We believe that Jesus Christ will one day return visibly and in glory to judge the living and the dead. Those who belong to Christ will enjoy eternal life with Him, while those who reject Him will face eternal separation from God.

God will renew creation, and His people will dwell with Him forever in a restored and perfect world where sin, suffering, and death will be no more.