



## Highlands Community Church Faith Message: What We Believe

### The Scriptures & God

**The Scriptures.** The Holy Bible was written by men who were “called” of God and divinely inspired. It is God’s revelation of Himself to mankind. The Bible is a perfect, inerrant, and awesome treasure given by God. It is absolutely true and flawless in divine instruction. God is the Author, without error. All Scripture is absolutely true and trustworthy. It is God’s revelation to man for the principles of His judgment and will remain the center of Christian fellowship. It is, and will forever remain, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, religious opinions and creeds should be tried. All scripture leads to the testimony of Jesus, Who is Himself the focus of God’s divine revelation. (*2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Hebrews 4:12, Isaiah 40:8*)

**God & The Trinity.** There is only one living and true God. The eternal God of the Trinity. He reveals Himself to us as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who have distinct personal attributes, without division of nature, being or essence. (*Colossians 2:9, Matthew 28:19, John 14:16-17, 1 John 5:7-8, 1 Peter 1:1-2*)

### The Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

**God the Father.** The Father God reigns over His creation with providential care and love by example. He cares for His creation and humanity through His grace and mercy. He invites all of mankind to become the children of God through faith in Jesus. (*1 Cor 8:6, Mal 2:10*)

**God the Son.** Jesus is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He walked in obedience by God’s divine law and became the substitutionary sacrifice for all of mankind. It is through Him, and Him only, that God allowed a provision for the redemption of man’s sin. (*Col 1:13-16, John 1:1-3, Hebrews 1:1-5*)

**God the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Living God who is fully divine. He convicts men of sin, judgment and righteousness. He exalts Jesus, enlightens and empowers the believer and God’s church in areas of worship, gifts, service, evangelism and discipleship. (*Gen 1:2, Isaiah 61:1-3, Jn 4:24, Jn 16:7-14, Rom 8:9-11*)

## Salvation, Grace & Baptism

**Salvation.** Salvation is the redemptive grace of God offered freely to all who trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ, by His own blood, obtained eternal redemption for all who will believe and trust Him as Savior and Lord. Salvation includes the truths of regeneration, justification, sanctification and glorification. Judgment and will remain the center of Christian fellowship. It is, and will forever remain, the supreme standard by which all human conduct, religious opinions and creeds should be tried. All scripture leads to the testimony of Jesus, Who is Himself, the focus of God's divine revelation. (*Jn 1:11-14, 29, Gal 2:20, Jn 3:16, Acts 4:12*)

**Grace.** All true believers will, through perseverance, endure to the end. Only God, through His providence and sovereignty, knows the heart of man and his ultimate destination. It is exciting to know that we have an eternal home with Jesus after this life. Those who God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, are true believers. According to God's Word, there is security as a believer knowing and trusting Jesus. We do not have to fear eternity. While man cannot lose his salvation, grace is conditional upon the believer's obedience and commitment to endure to the end through the perseverance of a changed life, living in accordance to God's Word, and the evidence of a life dedicated to Christ. Election is the purpose of God's grace as He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies and glorifies non-believers. (*1 Pet 1:3-5, Eph 2:8, John 1:17, Heb 4:16, Rom 3:23-24, 2 Tim 4:10-12, Rev 22:18-19*)

**Baptism & The Lord's Supper.** Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old man's life, and the resurrection to walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. (*Acts 2:38, Acts 8:12, 38; 9:10; 10:47, 48; 16:33; 18:8, Matt 26, 26-29, 1 Cor 11:17-33*).

## Other Important Topics

**The End Times.** There are many areas of scripture that present God's plan for the end times. God, in His own time and in His own unique way will bring this world to its appropriate end. Jesus will return visibly and personally. Those who are dead will be raised and Jesus will judge all men in righteousness. Those who are deemed by Christ to be unrighteous will make their eternal home in a place called Hell that was prepared for Satan and fallen angels. Jesus will also judge believers at the judgment seat of Christ. Believers will receive their reward and dwell in Heaven for eternity with the Lord and others who have gone before us in the faith. (*1 Thess 4:14-18, 5:1-28, Titus 2:13, Heb 9:27-28, 2 Pet 3:7-18*)

**Stewardship.** It is God who is the source of all blessings, both spiritual and temporal. All that we have received and have become, we owe to Him. Christians owe a spiritual debt to this world. Through this spiritual debt, we have been given a holy trusteeship in the gospel of

Christ and a binding biblical stewardship regarding our possessions. We are called to serve God with our time, talents, and material possessions. We are also called to serve God in areas of worship that include the faithful giving of tithes and offerings in accordance to the principles taught in the Bible and to support the work of God's kingdom. (*Gen 14:20, Lev 27:30-32, Mal 3:8-12, Acts 2:44-47, 1 Cor 16:1-4*)

**Cooperation.** Christ's people, as believers in Christ, can and should organize associations, conventions and churches of fellowship to best secure an effective spirit of cooperation in the Kingdom of God. The local church is paramount and should be recognized as such in its autonomy. These organizations have no true authority over one another or churches of fellowship in God's Kingdom. God's people should always serve in a spirit of cooperation between various organizations and Christian denominations as a living example of the love and Spirit of Jesus. (*Ex 17:12, Neh 4:1-23, 1 Cor 1:10-17, Eph 4:1-16, Phi 1:15-18*)

**The Church.** Our church, as a fellowship of believers, is a church of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is an autonomous local congregation of believers. We are associated in a covenant of faith in Jesus Christ and the fellowship of His gospel. We are governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights and privileges of His Word and dedicated to the call of His Great Commission. Our congregation operates under the Lordship of Jesus through democratic processes. Each member is responsible and absolutely accountable to Christ as Lord and Savior. Our scriptural officers are pastors and elders. While both men and women are called and gifted to service in our fellowship, the offices of pastor or preachers are limited to men as qualified by Scripture. (*Col 1:18, Acts 2:41-42, Heb 10:25, Rev 21:2-3*)

**Family.** God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation... Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. (*Gen 1:26-28, Mk 10:6-12, Rom 1:18-32, Eph 5:21-33, Col 3:18-21, 1 Tim 5:8, 1 Pet 3:1-7*)

**Christians & The Social Order.** All Christians are under a divine obligation to make the will of Christ supreme in our individual lives and society. The improvement of our society and the establishment of God's divine plan for men can only take place when believers approach such improvements by the principles of God's Word rooted in the saving grace of Jesus. As the Spirit of Jesus lives within the life of the believer, Christians should oppose racism, greed, vice and selfishness. We should oppose all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery,

homosexuality and pornography. We should work to provide for the abused, needy, orphaned, aged, sick and helpless. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and protect the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Each believer should work to bring industry, government and society under the Biblical principles of righteousness, truth and the love of Christ. (*Micah 6:8, Rom 12:1-14, Rom 1:18-32, Col 3:12-17*)

**Peace & War.** It is the duty of believers to seek peace with all men in principles of righteousness. In accordance with the Spirit and teachings of Jesus, we should do all within our power to put an end to war. The most effective remedy to the war spirit is the gospel of Christ. From time to time, there is a purpose for war to take place in the protection of our nation's way of life, against evil foes and the beliefs of the Christian faith that we hold dear. During such times, Christians should pray for peace, fight when called upon in defense of our nation and always support our military forces in its quest to defeat evil. Christians throughout the world should ultimately pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace who can change the hearts of men.