

WE BELIEVE . . .

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH



Hannover International Bible Church
“Where Nations Meet to Worship”

1. The Bible

We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testament, are the inspired Word of God. God so superintended the human authors that while retaining their own individual personalities and writing styles they chose the very words that God intended. Their original writings were free from error. The Bible is the believer's only infallible rule for faith and practice. We believe that the Bible supercedes even this statement of faith. (Psalm 19:7-9; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21)

2. The Godhead

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are identical in essence and equal in power and glory; they possess the same nature, attributes, and perfections, and are worthy of the same worship, confidence, and obedience. (Isaiah 45:5-7; 48:9-11; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-4; Acts 5:3, 4; 2 Corinthians 13:13)

3. The Person and Work of the Father

We believe in God the Father, Creator of the heavens and Earth, an infinite spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, justice, and love. He has decreed for His own glory, which He values above all else, all things that come to pass and everything exists for His glory. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of individuals and nations, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and eternal death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Gen. 1:1-31; Isaiah 48:9-11; Luke 10:21-22; John 4:4; Eph. 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 Peter 1:3)

4. The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He became a man to reveal God to mankind and to redeem His people by giving Himself as a substitutionary sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. He was buried and after three days He bodily arose from the dead. His resurrection is evidence that the sacrifice satisfied God's righteous judgment against sin. He then ascended to the Father's right hand where He intercedes on the believer's behalf. All Scriptures, from first to last, point to Christ. (Luke 1:34, 35; 24:27; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18; Romans 3:24-26; 8:34; Genesis 3:15; 12:1-3; Psalms 45:6-7; 102:25-27)

5. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person who regenerates (gives new life to) those who are dead in their sins, convincing them of their sins, and moving them to put their trust in Christ. He baptizes and places all believers into the body of Christ indwells believers permanently, and seals believers until the day of redemption. He fills (controls, leads, guides effectually) those who are yielding to Him. He empowers believers for service. He guides believers in all understanding. (John 3:5-8; 14:16, 17; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18)

6. The Condition of Man

We believe that the first man, Adam, was created in the image and after the likeness of God. He was free from sin and enjoyed fellowship (a relationship) with God. Through a voluntary act of personal disobedience to the revealed will of God, he fell into a state of sin, lost his spiritual life, and became dead in sins and corrupt in nature. The effects of sin have been transmitted to the entire human race, Jesus Christ excepted, and thus every person born into the world is alienated from God and incapable of remedying his lost and depraved condition apart from divine grace. (Genesis 1:26; 3:1-24; 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-18; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3)

7. The Means of Salvation

We believe that salvation from the guilt and condemnation of sin is possible only as the gift of God's grace. It cannot be gained by good resolutions, sincere efforts, nor by adhering to the rules, regulations, or ordinances of any church, or religion. It is freely given. Those enabled by the Holy Spirit, respond in faith to Jesus Christ and trust in the work which He accomplished on the cross of Calvary. All who so trust the Saviour pass from death unto life, are forgiven of their sins, accepted by the Father, and born into His family by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. (John 5:24; Ephesians 1:6-7; 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23)

8. The Believer's Assurance and Responsibility

We believe that all who have been born again by God's transforming grace are secure in Christ forever. It is their privilege to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation, not on the basis of their own worthiness, but on the basis of God's faithfulness and the testimony of His Word. However, this assurance must not become an occasion (excuse) for sin. The reality of their faith in Christ is demonstrated by subjecting their fleshly natures to the power of the Holy Spirit and by doing the good works for which He saved them, especially by demonstrating a Christ-like love for one another. (Matthew 7:20; John 10:27-29; 13:1, 34, 35; Romans 6:13; 8:28-39; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 3:14, 23; 5:13)

9. The Church

We believe that all who have placed their faith in Christ are united by the Holy Spirit into one spiritual body, the *Church*, of which Christ is the Head, and whose purpose is to glorify God. This body was born on the day of Pentecost and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own. The members of this one spiritual body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies for worship, instruction, prayer, fellowship, service, and the administration of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. They are mutually accountable to each other and to discipline sinning members in accord with the standards of Scripture. They are likewise to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Matthew 18:5-22; 28:19; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 12:13; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 3:21; 4:3, 15)

10. The Ordinances

We believe that Christ has commanded **us the Church** to observe the two New Testament ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper. These two ordinances are observed in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ as acts of love and devotion, and are not set forth in Scripture as a condition of salvation. We teach and practice immersion as the form of baptism for believers. We view the Lord's Supper as a memorial of our Lord's death, and the elements as symbols of His body and blood. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47, 48; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

11. The Gifts of the Spirit

We believe that enabling gifts of service are bestowed according to God's own will upon all believers by the Spirit of God to be exercised for the edification of the Church, and for the glory of the Lord. These gifts are sovereignly bestowed by God in order to fulfill specific purposes in His program. (Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31; 13:8-10; 14:21, 22; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Ephesians 4:7-13; Hebrews 2:3, 4; 1 Peter 4:10, 11; 2 Timothy 4:20)

12. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy is the personal, bodily return of Christ to remove from the Earth His Church, both dead and living believers, and to reward each individual according to his works. After the removal of the Church, the righteous judgments of God will be poured out on the unbelieving world, climaxed by the glorious return of Jesus Christ to the earth with His saints to establish His millennial kingdom. (2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

13. The Eternal State

We believe that at death the souls of believers pass immediately into the presence of Jesus Christ. When Christ returns to remove the Church from the Earth they will be reunited with their glorified bodies and associated with Him forever in glory. At death the souls of unbelievers pass immediately into torment. At the close of the millennium they will be reunited with their bodies, judged before the great white throne, then cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be separated from the enjoyment of God's presence forever in conscious punishment. (Psalm 16:11; Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 20:11-15)

14. Doctrinal Position Papers

Our belief for specific doctrines can be found on our website at the following link:

[www.hannoveribc.com/Doctrinal Papers](http://www.hannoveribc.com/Doctrinal%20Papers)