

# HADASSAH'S HOPE

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

**Section 1: WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.** The Old and New Testaments, in their entirety, constitute the written Word of God and are without error in the original manuscripts. They were written by men, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and are therefore fully authoritative in all matters for the follower of Christ. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21; Prov. 30:5; John 17:17; Rom. 15:4)

**Section 2: WE BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS ETERNALLY IN TRINITY: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT.** There is one God, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, love, justice, goodness, and truth, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who desires that we should know Him intimately and live a life of fulfillment through the pursuit of His glory. (John 1:1-2; Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; Jude 20-21)

**Section 3: WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST LIVED A SINLESS LIFE, DIED ON A CROSS, WAS BURIED, AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE TO REDEEM SINFUL HUMANITY.** Jesus is the one True God, begotten, not made. He became human, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and made His dwelling among us, living a full life without sin. His perfect life and death on the cross provide the only atonement that satisfies the righteous requirements of God for the sinner. The death of Jesus Christ fully and finally paid for sin, and was redemptive, substitutionary, and efficacious. The historic fact of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead testifies powerfully to His deity and is itself humanity's ultimate hope. Jesus Christ will make a personal and imminent return to the earth; this return is a sanctifying "hope" having vital bearing on the life of every Christian. (Matt. 1:18; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; Mark 15:24; Mark 16:1-8; Heb. 9:26; Col. 1:13; Rom. 3:23-26)

**Section 4: WE BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMS HEARTS AND MINDS TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE NAME OF JESUS. WE BELIEVE THAT AS A CHRIST FOLLOWER WE ARE TO BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT.** The Holy Spirit bears persuasive testimony to the realities of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the personal, divine third member of the Godhead. He convicts the world of sin and its consequences; He brings repentance and faith to the believer; He indwells the believer with the radical life of Jesus Christ; He gives gifts to every believer for mutual service within the body of Christ; He unites each believer in the Body of Christ and seals them in that relationship; He bears the fruit of Christian character in the lives of every believer; He guides, instructs, and empowers the believer for godly living and service. He is worshipped with the Father and the Son. (2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 1:13; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38; Acts 2:41; Matt. 28:19)

**Section 5: WE BELIEVE ALL HUMANS ARE SINFUL AND IN NEED OF SALVATION. SALVATION IS THE GIFT OF GOD BROUGHT TO HUMANS BY GRACE ALONE AND RECEIVED BY FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.** God has created every person in the image of God, but we have fallen into sin, and are therefore lost; only through the regeneration by the Holy Spirit can we obtain salvation and spiritual life. All humans are sinners and face the judgment of God. The shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and only those who place faith in Jesus Christ and initiate a relationship with God on the basis of the work of Christ are delivered from the wrath of God toward sin required by His holy character. Those who receive Jesus Christ by faith are said by Holy Scripture to be justified, regenerated, redeemed, and adopted into the divine family as co-heirs with Christ of all the blessings of the Godhead. We proclaim that all persons must consciously repent of their sins and confess that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord. (Rom. 3:23; Rom. 3:12; Acts 4:12; 1 Thes. 5:9; Titus 2:11; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 3:25; Romans 5:1)

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**Section 6: WE BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS CREATED ALL HUMANS IN HIS IMAGE. HE HAS CREATED THEM UNIQUELY FEMALE AND MALE.** All humans are created in God's image; therefore, all human life is sacred. In creating humans as male and female, God communicated His image in harmonious interpersonal relationships, equality of personhood and importance and a distinction in role and authority. (Gen. 1:27; Eph. 5:21-33; Col. 3:18-19; Titus 1:6; 1 Tim. 2:11-15; 1 Tim. 3:2; 1 Cor. 14:33-35)

**Section 7: WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHURCH IS A SPIRITUAL BODY MADE UP OF ALL BELIEVERS EVERYWHERE FOR ALL TIME.** All Christians in all times and in all places have been united into a single body by God's design. This resultant union is called the Body of Christ. (Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 5:25; John 10:16; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Cor. 12:12-30)

**Section 8: WE BELIEVE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH.** Christ commanded that all Christians band together in assembly for instruction, worship, service, and fellowship. These assemblies are called local churches. Hadassah's Hope is not a local church. We are Christ followers that are serving together and sharing the Gospel with our community. Everyone that serves at Hadassah's Hope must be a member of a local church. The people that we meet through Hadassah's Hope are directed to one of several local churches that we have a good relationship with and encouraged to become active members. (Eph. 5:16-19; Col. 1:28; Acts 2:42-47)

**Section 9: WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS WILL RETURN TO EARTH TO JUDGE ALL PEOPLE AND TO RULE AND REIGN WITH HIS SAINTS FOREVER.** All people will be resurrected to give account of their lives before God. The believer in Christ will be resurrected to everlasting blessedness and joy in the presence of God. The unbeliever will be resurrected to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment. (Titus 2:12-13; Phil. 3:20; Matt. 24:44; Matt. 25:21; 1 Thes. 4:15-18; Acts 17:30-31; Rom. 2:5-7; Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10)

**Section 10. WE BELIEVE THAT GOD WONDERFULLY AND IMMUTABLY CREATES EACH PERSON AS MALE OR FEMALE.** We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term 'marriage' has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4). We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual behavior, polygamy, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10). We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11). We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Demeaning, harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accordance with Scripture.

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**Section 11: WE BELIEVE ALL PERSONS ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD GIVING THEM INTRINSIC DIGNITY REGARDLESS OF ETHNICITY OR GENDER.** Christians, through the local church, are then called to serve the needs of the poor and marginalized by building a culture of dignity through sharing the gospel and providing for basic material needs while preventing the damage to human dignity that comes through paternalism. We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. A failure to do so would be a sin.

**Section 12: WE BELIEVE THIS STATEMENT OF FAITH DOES NOT EXHAUST THE EXTENT OF OUR BELIEFS.** The Bible itself, as the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of HH's faith, doctrine, practice, policy and discipline, our board of trustees is HH's final interpretative authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

**Section 13: WE BELIEVE TO LOVE ASPECTS OF THE CREATION MORE THAN THE CREATOR IS ONE OF THE FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS OF SIN.** We further believe this love of the creation can be reflected in experiences and behaviors that can be described as addictions. When this happens, a combination of interventions (to include but not limited to counseling and medical care) can assist in breaking the behaviors, but ultimately what is needed is a change of heart where the love of Jesus Christ is raised to the person's highest priority. Ultimately, we believe this love of Christ through the redemptive power of the gospel is the only thing that can free a person from any cycle of addictions. We believe principal concerns for those who are trying to break out of a cycle of poverty and deprivation are the use of intoxicating substances, illicit drugs, and pornography. Regardless of the legality of their use or Christian liberty, when anything prevents a Christian from keeping Jesus Christ as the heart's highest priority that object must be put aside for the sake of the pursuit of holiness and a growing desire to see God glorified through the life of the believer. Therefore, we exist to help individuals who desire to break sinful addictive practices, and to help teach, nurture, and foster a biblical stewardship of worldly resources as both a means of self-sufficiency and an act of worship.

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_