

Hope in Christ Church: Statement of Faith

Scripture

God

Man

Grace

Church

We Believe:

MAN: Man is a physical and spiritual being (composed of spirit, soul and body) who was created in God's image. However, because of sin, man has lost his fellowship with God and is destined to die.

Key Verses Supporting the Doctrinal Statement concerning Man:

Physical & Spiritual: All humans have a body and a soul [Psalm 31:9b](#), [Micah 6:7](#), [Matthew 10:28](#)
Paul describes a believer as having a "spirit, soul, body" [1 Thessalonians 5:23](#)

Mankind's Soul: The soul is the immaterial, eternal essence of a human [Psalm 35:9-10a](#), [103:1](#)
Even God incarnate (Jesus Christ) had a soul [Matthew 26:36-38](#)
Every human's soul exists beyond the death of their body [Revelation 6:9](#), [20:4](#)
Spiritual war between good & evil [Ephesians 6:10-18](#) is over the soul [1 Peter 2:11](#)
The soul must make the choice between life/death, Heaven/hell
[Deuteronomy 30:19](#), [Jeremiah 6:16](#), [Micah 6:6-8](#), [Matthew 10:28](#), [16:13-18](#), [24-27](#)

Human Creation: The first man ('ādām) was created in the image of God [Genesis 1:26a,27](#)
Man's body was created similar to the animals - from "dust" [Genesis 2:7a](#)
The 2nd part of man's unique creation was spiritual - "breath" [Genesis 2:7b](#)
The first woman ('îššâ) came from the first man's ('îš) side [Genesis 2:21-22](#)
Adam named his wife and the first woman: Eve (life-giver) [Genesis 3:20](#)
God's crown of creation was to rule the creation [Genesis 1:26b](#), [Psalm 8:5-8](#)

Sin: Fall of man produced the original sin [Genesis 2:16-17](#), [3:1-6](#), [Romans 5:12](#)
"Sinful nature" in the NT refers to original sin [Romans 8:5-8](#), [Galatians 5:16-21](#)
Everyone sins, because it comes naturally [Ecclesiastes 7:20](#), [Romans 3:23](#), [7:14-20](#)

Death: The consequence of sin is death [Genesis 2:16-17](#), [Ezekiel 18:4](#), [Romans 6:23](#), [8:13](#)
Adam's sin caused spiritual death [Genesis 3:8-9](#), [Psalm 51:5](#), [Ephesians 2:1-3](#)
Bodily death came later, but is certain for all [Genesis 3:19](#), [1 Corinthians 15:22](#)
All will die, decay, return to dust, be judged [Psalm 90:3](#), [Acts 13:36](#), [Hebrews 9:27](#)
Bodies die, but the spirit can be "born again" [John 3:3b,5-6](#), [Romans 8:10-11](#)
Following physical death, the saved get a heavenly body [1 Corinthians 15:42-44](#)
Physical death is actually a blessing from God [Genesis 3:24](#), [Romans 6:6-7](#)
Spiritual death, without rebirth, results in a second death [Revelation 20:11-15](#)
The second death is an eternal existence for the soul [Matthew 25:31-34,41,46](#)

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- Genesis 1:26a,27** God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- Genesis 1:26b** God said, "Let us make man ... and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."
- Genesis 2:7a** The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground...
- Genesis 2:7b** The LORD God ... breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.
- Genesis 2:16-17** And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."
- Genesis 2:21-22** So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.
- Genesis 3:1-6** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' " "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
- Genesis 3:8-9** Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"
- Genesis 3:19** By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.
- Genesis 3:20** Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.
- Genesis 3:24** After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.
- Deuteronomy 30:19** This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live...
- Psalms 8:5-8** You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.
- Psalms 31:9b** I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.
- Psalms 35:9-10a** Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD and delight in his salvation. My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, LORD?"
- Psalms 90:3** You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."
- Psalms 103:1** Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- Ecclesiastes 7:20** There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

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Ezekiel 18:4 For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son – both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

Micah 6:7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Matthew 16:13-18 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16:24-27 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”

Matthew 25:31-34,41,46 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ...’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ...’ Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Matthew 26:36-38 Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

John 3:3b,5-6 Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” ... “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ”

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned...

Romans 6:6-7 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7:14-20 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

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Romans 8:5-8 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Romans 8:10-11 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 9:27b Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,...

1 Peter 2:11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.

Revelation 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.