

Higher Praise Worship Center Commitment Statement

Here at H.P.W.C. we have a commitment to put God first in our lives. To love, praise and worship Him (Jesus) with our whole heart, soul and mind (Matthew 22:37). We are a center dedicated to Christian expression through both word and deed that Jesus Christ is Lord and Master over our lives.

As the people of God, we desire to unite around one faith and one purpose, conformity to Biblical principles. With these in common, we deliver a unified voice and witness to our community and the world. Only by this kind of commitment and teamwork can we expect to effectively spread Gods word.

Doctrine of Higher Praise Worship Center

1. God the Father

We believe in one living and true God, eternal and infinite in power, wisdom, goodness and righteousness. He is a loving and faithful God who is the Creator and preserver of all life (Genesis 1:1). For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Son (Word) (John 1:14) and the Holy Spirit: and these three are one (1John 5:7)

2. God the Son

We believe in the divine nature of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, who as conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. Christ was both fully man, and fully God. He walked on earth, suffered at the hand of men. Was crucified, died and was buried as a sacrifice for the sins of all men and women everywhere. The purpose was to restore our relationship to God which was broken by sin (disobedience) (Luke 1:27, 31, 35; John 3:16; Romans 5:16, 17; Ephesians 5:2). Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven in full victory over Satan and sin. He now intercedes for the body of believers to God the Father (Matthew 28:5-9), Luke 24:4-7).

3. God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, which is our Comforter, who lives within us giving us the power to live a holy life and guiding us to the truth. We teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, eternal and possessing all the attributes of personality and deity. He is coequal with God. We teach that the Holy Spirit is the divine Teacher, who guided the apostles and prophets into all truth as they committed to writing God's revelation, The Bible. Every believer possesses the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit is also the power that makes us witnesses unto the world. (Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9; Galatians 4:6)

4. **The Authority of Scripture**

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments combined constitute the Holy Bible; no books may be added or deleted. The Holy Bible is inspired and inerrant (that is without error or failure of basic content and meaning in the original manuscripts). The Holy bible contains all of the necessary truths to lead men and women into salvation (Psalm 19:7; 1 John 17:17; Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; II timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20, 21). We teach that God spoke in His written Word by a process of dual authorship. The Holy Spirit so superintended the human authors that, through their individual personalities and different styles of writing, they composed and recorded God's Word to man (2 Peter 1:20, 21) without error in the whole or in the part (Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16). We teach that, whereas there may be several applications of any given passage of Scripture, there is but one true interpretation. The meaning of Scripture is to be found as one diligently applies the literal grammatical historical method of interpretation under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit (John 7:17; 16:12 -15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-15; 1 John 2:20). It is the responsibility of believers to ascertain carefully the true intent and meaning of Scripture, recognizing that proper application is binding on all generations. Yet the truth of Scripture stands in judgment of men; never do men stand in judgment of it.

5. **Man**

We believe that mankind was created by God in His own image (Genesis 1:27). Man was created to glorify God, enjoy God's fellowship and thus live his life in the will of God. (Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11) However, due to Adam's sin of disobedience, man inherits a corrupt nature that inclines him to do wrong (Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12). Man is not capable of achieving a life without sin on his own (Proverbs 20:9; Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16). Because man is created in God's own image, we have a "God-likeness" which includes knowledge between right and wrong, the ability to choose which course we will take, and the responsibility for our actions, or choices (Joshua 24:15; I Kings 20:40; John 7:17)

6. **Gifts of the Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit has given spiritual gifts to all believers for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and bringing glory to God. The gifts are to be exercised in love and emphasize the need for unity (1 Corinthians 12:4, 11, 18, 21-25; Ephesians 4:11-16).

7. **Salvation**

We believe that salvation is wholly of God by His grace through the redemption of Jesus Christ and His shed blood, not on human effort. (John 1:12; 1 Peter 1:18, 19)

Salvation comes when the repentant sinner, by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instruction of the Word of God, responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation. True salvation is manifested by actions as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; Ephesians 2:10). Although men and women cannot receive salvation by good works, their good works are still pleasing to God and show evidence of a true faith in Jesus as Lord of the believer's life (Matthew 5:6; 7:16-20; Romans 3:20, Galatians 2:16; James 2:18,22)

We believe that all the redeemed once saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 5:24; 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 5:9-10; 8:1, 31-39; 1 Corinthians 1: 4-8; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 7:25; 13:5; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24). We teach that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for sinful living and carnality (Romans 6:15-22; 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13, 25; Titus 2:11-14).

We believe that separation from sin is clearly called for throughout the Word of God, and that the Word clearly indicates that in the last days apostasy and worldliness shall increase (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5)

We believe that out of deep gratitude for the undeserved grace of God granted to us and because our glorious God is so worthy of our total consecration, all the saved should live in such a manner as to demonstrate our love to God so as not to bring reproach upon our Lord and Savior. We also teach that separation from all religious apostasy and worldly and sinful practices is commanded of us by God (Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9:11).

We teach that believers should be separated unto our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; Hebrews 12:1-2) and affirm that the Christian life is a life of obedient righteousness that reflects the teaching of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:2-12) and a continual pursuit of holiness (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14; Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 3:1-10).

8. **The Church**

We believe that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13), the bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 19:7-8), of which Christ is the Head (Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; Colossians 1:18)

We believe that the formation of the church, the Body of Christ, began on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21, 38-47) and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

We believe that the church is a unique spiritual organism designed by Christ, made up of all born again believers (Ephesians 2:11, 3:6)

We believe that the one supreme authority for the church is Christ (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18) and that church leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through His sovereignty as found in the Scriptures. The biblically designated officers serving under Christ and over the assembly are elders (also called bishops, pastors, and pastor teachers; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11) and deacons, both of whom must meet biblical qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5). We teach that these leaders lead or rule as servants of Christ (1 Timothy 5:17-22) and have His authority in directing the church. The congregation is to submit to their leadership (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

We believe the importance of discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2), mutual accountability of all believers to each other (Matthew 18:4-14), as well as the need for discipline of sinning members of the congregation in accord with the standards of Scripture (Matthew 18:15-22; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; 1 Timothy 1:19-20; Titus 1:10-16)

We believe that the purpose of the church is to glorify God (Ephesians 3:21) by building itself up in the faith (Ephesians 4:13-16), by instruction of the Word (2 Timothy 2:2, 15; 3:16-17), by fellowship (Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3), by keeping the ordinances (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42) and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world (Matthew 28:19, Acts 1:8; 2:42)

9. Sacraments

We believe that God ordained two sacraments: The Lord's Supper and Baptism. The Lord's Supper is received in remembrance of Christ's death for our sins. The bread represents His body and the wine, His blood. It is received in remembrance of God's love and grace toward us, and the love we must share with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14: 22-24; 1 Corinthians 10:16). Baptism is an outward symbolic act signifying salvation and cleansing of sin (Numbers 8:7; Mark 16:16; Acts 22:26). At H.P.W.C. we baptize by immersion.

10. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ to receive His believers into heaven and eternal life. The time of His return is unknown, but may be at any moment. This is the glorious hope of all God's children (John 14:1-3, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; James 5:7-8; Revelation 22:12, 20). We believe that those who have not accepted Christ as their personal Savior and are unrepentant will be judged by God in His perfect justice and doomed to eternal punishment (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:16).

