



*Growing in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...*

Meeting at:  
Central Park Elementary School  
1400 SW Liberty Avenue ♦♦♦ Bentonville, Arkansas 72712

Mailing Address and Church Office:  
1001 W. Walnut – Suite 5  
Rogers, Arkansas 72756  
Edward K. Godfrey, Pastor  
(479) 636-2457 ♦♦♦ [www.HopeCBC.org](http://www.HopeCBC.org)

## **Affirmation Statement Regarding Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage and Sexuality**

In light of the pervasive culture war that has been taking place in American society, the Elders of Hope Community Bible Church have adopted the following affirmations, based upon the clear teaching of the Word of God, the only God-inspired, true, and infallible source for all matters of faith and practice, as a necessary apologetic to what we believe as well as a necessary defense against any person(s), group, or government entity that would seek to undermine the congregation in the matters stated herein. These affirmations will direct the church's policies as they relate to affirmations below.

- We affirm that marriage was given by God as part of His common grace, and that it has no meaning other than as He has provided (Genesis 2:18–24).
- We affirm that marriage is subject to the curse of the Fall but that believers, living in obedience to the Scripture and under the control of the Holy Spirit, can begin to experience peaceful, productive, and fulfilled marriage as intended by God (Genesis 3:16; 1 Peter 3:7).
- We affirm that the marriages of believers are to illustrate the loving relationship of Christ and His church, with the husband loving his wife as Christ loves the church and the wife responding to her husband's loving leadership as the church responds to Christ (Ephesians 5:18–33).
- We affirm that as believers' marriages are to illustrate Christ's relationship with His church, believers should choose to marry those who share their faith and regenerate life (2 Corinthians 6:14).
- We affirm that the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture (Gen. 2:23–24).
- We affirm that marriage is always a public, formal, and officially recognized covenant between a man and a woman.
- We affirm that without such a covenant, which may include a "common law marriage," where valid in specific cases under pertinent law, prolonged conjugal cohabitation does not establish, and is not equivalent to, marriage (John 4:18).
- We affirm that where no such covenant exists, or can be discerned, between a cohabiting couple prior to coming to faith in Christ, family units should be preserved to the extent possible and, if otherwise appropriate, solemnization encouraged.
- We affirm that where a valid marriage has been established prior to coming to faith in Christ, the couple should remain married (1 Corinthians 7:24).
- We affirm that God hates divorce, permitting it only where there has been unrepentant sexual sin (Malachi 2:14–16; Matthew 5:32, 19:9) or desertion by an unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:12–15).
- We affirm that remarriage is permitted to a faithful partner, but only when the divorce was on biblical grounds.

---

*Sola Scriptura*  
Scripture Alone

*Solus Christus*  
Christ Alone

*Sola Gratia*  
Grace Alone

*Soli Fide*  
Faith Alone

*Soli Deo Gloria*  
God's Glory Alone



*Growing in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...*

Meeting at:  
Central Park Elementary School  
1400 SW Liberty Avenue ♦♦♦ Bentonville, Arkansas 72712

Mailing Address and Church Office:  
1001 W. Walnut – Suite 5  
Rogers, Arkansas 72756  
Edward K. Godfrey, Pastor  
(479) 636-2457 ♦♦♦ [www.HopeCBC.org](http://www.HopeCBC.org)

- We affirm that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We teach that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman (Hebrews 13:4).
- We affirm that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, pornography, any attempt to change one's sex or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God (Leviticus 18:1–30; Matthew 5:28; Romans 1:26–29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8).
- We affirm that homosexuality, in particular, is subject to God's wrath of abandonment, is a matter of choice and not inherited status, and epitomizes man's ungrateful rebellion against God (Romans 1:18–28).
- We affirm that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture or the doctrines of the church.
- We affirm that the faithful proclamation of the Scripture, including the call to repentance, does not constitute hate speech, or hateful and harassing behavior, but is instead a fundamental part of the church's loving mission to the world (Matthew 28:16–20; 2 Corinthians 5:11–20; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 4:1–2).
- We affirm that God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sin, including sexual sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
- We affirm that His forgiveness is total and complete (Psalm 103:11–12, 130:3–4; Isaiah 43:25, 44:22; John 5:24; Colossians 2:13–14) and that God imputes the full righteousness of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21) to the believing sinner.
- We affirm the Biblical teaching that the forgiven sinner has been cleansed from the guilt of sin, set apart unto God, or made holy, and justified before Him (1 Corinthians 6:9–11).
- We affirm the Biblical teaching that any man or woman who has received that forgiveness is "in Christ" and is a "new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- We affirm the biblical definition of marriage as being one man united with one woman (Genesis 2:23–24). Based upon this definition, Hope Community Bible Church shall not utilize any of its resources, facilities or personnel for the purpose of performing a marriage ceremony – civil, military, or otherwise – which purports to wed two individuals of the same sex. Hope Community Bible Church shall not utilize any of its resources, facilities or personnel for the celebration or acknowledgement of such a union by the means of a reception or any other gathering. Finally, no marriage ceremony between two individuals of the same sex shall be performed by any member of the staff, elder, deacon, or representative of Hope Community Bible Church.

(Adopted by the Board of Elders, June 2014)

---

***Sola Scriptura***  
Scripture Alone

***Solus Christus***  
Christ Alone

***Sola Gratia***  
Grace Alone

***Soli Fide***  
Faith Alone

***Soli Deo Gloria***  
God's Glory Alone