

Foundational
Words of
Living Hope
Fellowship

*The basic beliefs of
Living Hope Fellowship*



FAMILY

Living Hope began with the dream of a church functioning as a family! There is no other word that better describes our hope for the experience together here than the word family. We understand our Heavenly Father is the head of our family and we seek to honor Him in all we do.

Our purpose is to provide a church family experience where new believers feel welcome and all believers can grow and mature in Jesus Christ!

Because of the country we live in, our "Church Family" must be registered with our government in order to receive 501c3 tax exemption. Because of our founding pastor's long relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention we constituted and registered our fellowship through the Southern Baptist Convention. We do want it to be understood, however, that we function in a non-denominational way, seeking to follow only our Lord not a denomination.

Because family is the primary word that describes how we function, our structure is set up to reflect a family. Our intention is to downplay our differences and promote our unity. We are an Elder led Church, meaning that our Elders are the Spiritual Overseers and the governing leaders of our fellowship. Decisions are made by the Elder Body and the delegated leadership teams of the fellowship. We believe this promotes our unity.

We are not a voting Church. Just as most unified families are not "voting" families. Voting tends to create conflict. At LHF we "vote" on nothing. However, the Elders and Leadership Teams pray about everything. We seek the insight from everyone, both individually, and through corporate family meetings.

When there is unity, we move forward as a family.
(Ephesians 4:11-12)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A CHURCH TO FUNCTION AS A FAMILY?

Family starts with a lifetime covenant commitment. We believe that those who choose to become “partners” in the family of LHF should do so with an intention to live life together. We want to promote the concept of living the Christian life together. Over the years we will get to know one another, we will build deep relationships, and we will know how to minister to each other because we are committed to each other. As a family we grow together, learn and fulfill responsibilities together, respect one another, maintain relationships together, and invest our lives in one another. We welcome all committed followers of Jesus Christ to become “partners” in the goal of living life as a family at Living Hope Fellowship.

We believe that a good foundation is the key to building a wholesome family life together. The following six foundational words are building blocks for us as a fellowship:

LIBERTY

LOVE

SERVICE

GROWTH

RELATIONSHIP

FAITHFULNESS

Foundational Words of LHF

LIBERTY

God does not want His creation to be controlled by anything or anyone other than Himself. Sin is the most powerful opponent of liberty.

The reality is that all have sinned and are being controlled by its power. (*Romans 3:23*)

The greatest work of God on behalf of mankind is to provide liberty from our sin through Jesus Christ. (*Romans 5:8*)

1. Liberty from the bondage of sin

- **Liberation from sin happens when a person:**
 - A.** Acknowledges their own bondage to sin.
Read Romans 3:23
 - B.** Personally trusts in God's provision for liberty.
Read Romans 5:8
Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Ephesians 2:8 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."
 - C.** Submits to Jesus as the Lord (boss) of their life.
Read Romans 10:13, John 1:12 & Acts 4:12

- **Acknowledgement and submission are the key points.**

If you have never acknowledged your need for forgiveness from sin and your need to submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, I invite you to do so right now! Stop what you are doing and pray!

2. Liberty verses Legalism

- **In the essential beliefs - we have unity!**

Ephesians 4:4 - "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."

- **In the non - essentials - we have liberty!**

Romans 14:1 - "Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions."

Romans 14:4 - "Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand."

Romans 14:12 - "So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Romans 14:22 - "The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves."

- **In all our beliefs - we show love!**

1 Corinthians 13:2 - "And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing."

3. Liberty not Universalism

(These are our essentials)

- **All of the Bible is the inspired Word of God, without error.**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
(See also 2 Peter 1:20-21 & Revelation 22:19)*

- **There is one true living God, as represented in the Trinity; God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.**

A. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the one true living God and is the Creator of all things and reveals Himself as **Father**.

Matthew 6:9 - "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.'" See also Exodus 3:6, 14-15

God created all things.

See Genesis 1:1, John 1:3

B. Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the **Son of God**, the salvation of the world; by His death He paid the price for the sins of all people and by

His physical resurrection He provided the hope of eternal and abundant life.

Hebrews 9:22 - "...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

MORE ABOUT JESUS:

* Jesus is the Word that became flesh.

John 1:1-14

* Jesus was born of a virgin. *Luke 1:34-37*

* Jesus was tempted like we are, but was without sin. *Hebrews 4:15, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 3:5, 1 Peter 2:22*

* Jesus is the Savior, sent by God.

1 John 4:14, John 3:16 & 11:25-26

* In fulfillment of prophecy and God's plan, Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Matthew 27:50, & 28:6-7, Mark 15:37 & 16:6-7, Luke 23:46 & 24:6-7, John 19:30 & 20:13-14

* Jesus has commissioned His followers to share the Gospel. *Matthew 28:19-20*

C. God sent His **Holy Spirit**, who resides in the hearts of God's people. God sent the Holy Spirit to be a help and comfort to believers.

Acts 1:5 & 8, John 14:16-17

God's Spirit resides in the believer's heart.

2 Corinthians 1:22

The Spirit helps the believer.

Romans 8:26-27

- **All people have sinned and require redemption from sin, provided through Jesus Christ alone, God's Son, in order to inherit the promise of His Holy Spirit.**

Romans 3:23 & 6:23, John 14:6.

- **Salvation is received by faith through grace, and not by the works of man.**
 - A. It is faith, not works which is counted as righteousness. *Romans 4:2-3 & 5*
 - B. Salvation comes by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, not by works. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
 - C. Confess with your mouth, and believe in your heart, and you will be saved. *Romans 10:9-10*

- **God has set apart His believers as a royal priesthood, for whom no other intercessor is needed besides Jesus.**
 - A. God has made His people into a holy priesthood, whose spiritual sacrifices are made acceptable to God through Jesus. *1 Peter 2:5 & 9*
 - B. Jesus is our intercessor with God, and no other intercessor is necessary. *Hebrews 10:19-22*

- **Jesus will return again to establish His kingdom. *Revelation: Chapters 19, 20 & 21***

Foundational Words of LHF
SERVICE

We are called to live for the sake of others.

Matthew 20:28 - "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

At the moment you became a follower of Jesus you were given a gift by the Holy Spirit to be used in the Body of Christ, for the good of the entire Body.

1 Corinthians 12:4 - "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord."

1 Corinthians 12:27 - "Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it."

1. Every person in the Body is good at something!

1 Corinthians 12:14-18—"For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired."

Some things we all need to do together, and some things are designated to those with a passion for it.

Find your passion! Many times we simply need to fulfill the gifting and passion placed in us to best serve the Body.

2. Every task is important!

1 Corinthians 12:20-25— “But now there are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ or again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly members come to have more abundant seemliness, whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.”

- **All should be done to God’s glory.**
1 Corinthians 10:31 - “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”
- **When you keep in mind who you are truly serving you will be able to find joy in the most menial task!**
Matthew 25:40 - “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’”

3. Every partner is a servant minister

1 Peter 4:10 - "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

James 2:26 - "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."

- **What is Ministry? Ministry is an act of love!**

John 13:35 - "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

In regards to serving in the church, keep in mind we are a family. We are not a business, therefore we are limited in our ability to enforce fulfillment of responsibilities.

Foundational Words of LHF

LOVE

We are called to live a life of LOVE!

1. To know God is to know God is love.

Ephesians 2:4 - "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Ephesians 3:14 - "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

2. What kind of love is this?

1 John 3:1- "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

- **It is a Fathers' love.**

We understand the "Fatherhood of God" under the idea of God's love for us.

- **God's demonstrated His love for us**
1 John 4:9 & 10, Romans 5:8, John 15:13
- **This is the most powerful love in creation**
 - A. His love covers a multitude of sins
1 Peter 4:8
 - B. His love constrains us
2 Corinthians 5:14
 - C. His Love has been for all time and will be for all time.
John 17:24
 - D. His Love transforms us
1 John 3:1
Kindness of God leads to repentance

3. This is a motivational love

We are motivated to serve and love others because of the love of God placed in us.

- **We love because He first loved us**
1 John 4:10 - "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."
- **When a person understands how much they need forgiveness, they love more.**
Luke 7:47 - "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."
- **Ask yourself:**
 - A. Can you receive the love of God?
 - B. Are you allowing others to hinder you from receiving the Love of God?

Foundational Words of LHF

GROWTH

Our lives must be lived with a commitment to spiritual growth!

2 Peter 3:18 - "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

Spiritual Growth can be measured by three things:

- 1. The fullness of the Spirit**
- 2. Love for God**
- 3. Love for Man**

1. The fullness of the Spirit

- **What is it?**
 - A.** Living in the fullness of the Spirit is living sacrificially
Read Galatians 5:13
 - B.** When there is fullness there is boldness
Read Acts 4:31
 - C.** Where there is fullness there is spiritual understanding
Read Acts 13:9
- **Who has it?**
 - A.** Only the children of God can have the fullness of His Spirit
Read Luke 11:13
 - B.** Those who are full of the Spirit demonstrate it by the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.
Read Galatians 5:19-23

- **How do you get it?**
 - A. You must desire it
Read Ephesians 5:18
 - B. There must be a commitment to walk under the Spirit's control and crucify the flesh
Read Galatians 5:24 & Ephesians 5:15
 - C. There must be constant surrender!
Read Acts 13:52
 - D. There must be a request
Read Luke 11:13

2. Love for God

- **Walking in love with God and man is at the core of the purpose for which we were created**
Read Matthew 22:37-40
 - A. Is it really possible to love God without loving Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?
- **Your love is what God has always desired!**
Read Deuteronomy 10:12
- **To love God produces life**
Read Deuteronomy 30:6
 - A. Think of some things that reveal your love for God.
 - B. There is this crazy idea today that you can love God yet not walk in His commandments...but Jesus said if you love me you will keep my commandments. (*John 14:15*)

3. Love for man

- **Your love for God is confirmed by your love for man**
Read 1 John 4:20

- **Our love for man is not contingent on their kindness to us.**
Read 6:28
- **1 John 2:10 - “He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.”**
 - A. This verse reveals love is a sign of spiritual growth and maturity.
 - B. Think of some things that reveal your love for man!
- **John 13:35 - “By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”**
 - A. This is who we are!!!

Foundational Words of LHF
RELATIONSHIPS

One of the most common mistakes in the Christian life is that believers try to do it on their own.

"No man is an Island"

Ephesians 2:19-22

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit."

God has revealed Himself through the relationship between the representations of Himself in the Trinity. The Father seeks to make Himself known as Spirit, who seeks to call all to the Son, who then seeks to bring Glory to the Father. The constant revelation is one of blessing and honoring the other. That is God's goal for us in relationship to one another.

The second most common mistake in Christian relationships is that of walking only with those who are exactly like ourselves.

1. Our first relationships in life are formed in the context of family.

- **Family is made of many different individuals. That is a good thing!**

- **The bonds we form in family strengthen us to function in the world with success.**
 - A. Those with a dysfunctional family life tend to struggle much more than those with a healthy family life.

- **Healthy family life creates an atmosphere of unconditional love.**

- **God uses the Church Family to nurture His children.**

Read 1 John 2:13 & 1 Timothy 5:1

- **Christians are part of a family we call the church.**
 - A. A Christian without a church family is a contradiction.

- 2. **Close relationship with Committed Christians in the Church family facilitates maturity.**

- **When with those we are close to we tend to reveal more of who we are.**
 - A. When this happens we expose the strengths and weaknesses of our character.
 - B. We become more transparent
 - C. We can be "ourselves"
 - D. Those we learn to trust can see us and help us mature.

- **An unwillingness to develop closer relationships with other Christians reveals a measure of insecurity or arrogance.**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-24

- **The best way to develop closer relationships with other committed Christians is through time together.** (such as in Small Groups)
 - A. Getting together with other committed believers in small group settings will facilitate spiritual growth!

3. Relationships are not intended for your benefit only.

Many avoid Church family and small groups under the assumption "I don't need it". This is a very selfish statement. You may think you don't need others to mature in faith (if so you are arrogantly deceived), but others may need you to mature in their faith. What has happened in your experience with God is used by God to bless and mature others in His family.

- **Others need you, and you need them!**
Read Acts 2:46

Foundational Words of LHF
FAITHFULNESS

Read Matthew 24:45-51, 25:14-33

This passage covers a lot of territory:
End times, who really is a servant (sheep and goats),
the demise of unfaithful servants, the expectations of
God on His servants

The overall concept of this passage is faithfulness!
Faithfulness, like the other five LHF foundational
words is a life principle, it is a kingdom principle! It is
the way God functions and it is the way God calls us
to function.

Being faithful carries with it the ideas of stewardship,
responsibility, and the opportunity to inherit blessings
that come to the faithful. The concept of faithfulness is
addressed over 100 times in the Bible.

**1. Faithfulness is a word used to define who
God is.**

- **Read Dueteronomy 7:9**
 - A. The Greek word, *pistos*, defines faithful persons as those who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties. God blesses the faithful one.
- **Psalm 101:6 - “Mine eyes *shall be* upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.”**

2. The normal outflow of the Child of God should be a life of faithfulness with all God has invested in them.

Throughout the New Testament commendable servants of God are repeatedly referred to as faithful or "the faithful".

Jesus spends a lot of time talking about faithfulness in the gospels. God is obviously interested in faithfulness.

- **Faithfulness with financial stewardship.**
Read Matthew 25:27-30
 - A. Financial stewardship in the Bible is illustrated by the tithe
 - B. Tithing is giving 10% of the 'first fruits'
 - C. Tithing requires faith
 - D. Faithfulness in giving is ALWAYS Blessed

- **Jesus clearly calls His Church to faithfulness.**
Read Revelation 2:8-11

- **We should invest in those who are faithful!**
Read 2 Timothy 2:2
 - A. At Living Hope we regularly support missionaries in South Africa (Koos Basson) and India (Sudnyan Bansod) who are faithfully serving their native people.

3. Faithfulness begets opportunities for faithfulness.

- **Faithfulness is rewarded in the scriptures.**

Read these passages:

- A. Matthew 25:23**
- B. Luke 12:42**
- C. Proverbs 28:20**
- D. Psalm 31:23**

- **Faithfulness is not about how much you have but what you do with what you do have.**

Read Luke 16:10

- A. Our Lord understands that faithfulness shows up best in how we handle our resources!**

- **What about faithfulness with your life? Have you committed it to Christ?**

CONCLUSION

Though we are aware there are many other areas of truth that our Lord calls us to walk in, we believe if we live together at LHF by the principles of our Foundational Words:

Liberty
Love
Service
Growth
Relationship
Faithfulness

we will be able to walk in unity and fulfill the will of God among us!

May God bless you as you walk with us!

For more information, or if you have any questions regarding the contents of this booklet, please feel free to speak to Pastor Chris, or you can contact the church office at: office@lhfellowship.com

Living Hope Fellowship
3640 Grace Drive
Lexington, KY 40517
Phone: (859) 277-0926
Email: office@lhfellowship.com
Web: www.lhfellowship.com