

# RH BELONG

## OUR CORE VALUES

Our Core Values describe **the way** ministry is done.

### 1. Truth flows best through meaningful relationships.

*1 Thessalonians 2:8; 1 Peter 2:4-11*

Truth without relationship is **legalism**.

Relationship without truth is **relativism**.

### 2. Cultural relevance without biblical compromise.

*1 Corinthians 9:22; Acts 17:16-31*

This is all about being missional. We never change the truth of the Gospel but, as did Paul, we always seek to communicate it in such a way that those in a specific culture may more easily understand. It's not a question of whether you will speak to a culture but rather which culture will you intentionally try to reach?

How churches conduct their liturgy, whether pastors stand or sit while teaching, where churches meet, which translations of the Bible or styles of music for singing praise to God they use have all changed over the years (intentionally or unintentionally) due to culture.

What artificial cultural barriers can we knock down in order to have a better chance of reaching those who do not know Jesus?

### 3. In Essentials Unity

*1 Titus 1:9*

In non-essentials **liberty** | *Romans 14:2*

In everything **charity** | *Colossians 3:14*

When our lives are focused on our mission, unity flows as a by-product.

## ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is **secure** for eternity. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us eternal security, not our self-effort. A true Christian will not take advantage of God's favor, but will practice genuine humility with godly sorrow when he sins, and will attempt to live according to God's standards.

*John 10:28; 2 Corinthians 6:1,2*  
*See Frequently Asked Questions.*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and His ministry is to glorify Jesus Christ. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He lives in every believer from the **moment** of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

*2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18*  
*See Frequently Asked Questions for concepts of the Trinity.*

## THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible was **inspired** (God Breathed) by God and is therefore completely trustworthy as our final **authority** in faith and conduct. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error. We interpret the Bible literally, naturally, historically, grammatically, and by common sense.

*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Psalm 119:105,106*  
*See Frequently Asked Questions.*

## THE CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

We believe that a Christian is to walk within the **boundaries** of Scripture, but also has freedom within those boundaries. We trust people to be led by the Holy Spirit to a life of holiness.

*Romans 14:1-6, John 8:31,32*  
*See Frequently Asked Questions.*

# BAPTISM

We believe Baptism is one of the ordinances Christ left for the church.

It is an **outward expression** of an **inward reality**, demonstrating one's faith in God the Father, one's acceptance of Jesus Christ the Son, and one's recognition of the living and indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Baptism means to dip or immerse; therefore, the mode of Baptism here at Rolling Hills is immersion.

*Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38 & 41*

# COMMUNION

We believe that Jesus told us to remember Him through sharing the bread (representing His body given for us) and the cup (representing His shed blood). Communion is a **symbol** pointing to our present healthy relationship with Christ. Rolling Hills usually takes Communion on the second Sunday of each month.

*1 Corinthians 11:23-34*

# COMMITMENT TO GIVE FINANCIALLY

The Bible instructs us to tithe to the Lord God.

*"Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year." Deuteronomy 14:22*

**What is a tithe?** A tithe means "a tenth (10%) part." The tithe seems to be a symbolic statement that all we have is from God and that we do not count it as our own (Genesis 14 & 28). We are also told that it helps us gain and keep a proper perspective of God in our lives (Deuteronomy 14:22-23).

**Were the purposes the tithe was used for in the Old Testament no longer valid in the New Testament?** Actually they were still valid and taught by Paul:

## **New Testament Purposes for Sacrificial Giving**

- Gratitude for God's provision and to reflect His generosity  
2 Corinthians 8, 9; Philippians 4:19; Matthew 2:11
- Everyone participates (planned and proportionate) in God's mission  
1 Corinthians 16:2

- Support for ministry and ministers of the Word  
Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:18; Romans 15
- Help poor, widowed, orphaned, outcasts  
1 Timothy 5; Luke 3:11, 16:19-31; Matthew 19:21

### **OUR REGULAR GIVING SHOULD REFLECT OUR WILLINGNESS.**

He didn't command a tithe because he wanted to emphasize willingness rather than constraint.

*"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7*

It's a privilege to join Him in His work. He already owns everything and can carry out His purposes without us, but He allows us to join Him. When we begin connecting with who God is and that He is the one who gives all good things, giving moves from obligation to privilege!

### **OUR REGULAR GIVING SHOULD REFLECT OUR GENEROSITY.**

Generosity versus Limitation

Generosity versus the Minimum Requirement

God is not after your money ... He's after you.

### **Where should our tithe be given?**

Malachi 3:10 teaches us to give to the temple or the center of worship. Today, that means the local church where we receive, serve, and participate in the nourishment of our spiritual lives.

Our tithes go to the Operating Fund to pay for the daily operation of the church. Also, a percent of every dollar given goes to our Community & Global Outreach Fund.

### **What is an offering?**

An offering is anything given above the tithe of 10%. (Deuteronomy 12:6)

Offerings are to be above the amount of the tithe and are received for designated purposes such as building improvements or our Operation Blessing fund, which is used to meet the extreme needs of both our members and our community.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY?**

Yes, even though the word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible, the concept of the Tri-Unity of God is present:

- **God the Father** | *Exodus 3:14; Genesis 1:1; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 1:1,3; Ephesians 6:23*
- **God the Son** | *John 10:30-33; 2 Thessalonians 1:1*
- **God the Spirit** | *1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 3:16-17*

## **WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE GIFT OF TONGUES?**

The clearest definition of Tongues is found in Acts 2:5-12. Simply put, Tongues was a “known dialect” spoken under the power of the Holy Spirit by a person who did not know the language (known dialect), but it was known to the person hearing it. Tongues was used in the book of Acts to:

- Demonstrate the presence of God
- Reveal God to the unbelieving
- Unify the Samaritans (Acts 8:1-17), the Gentiles (Acts 10:34-48), and the disciples of John (Acts 19:1-7)

In 1 Corinthians, a Tongue is defined in the same way as in Acts 2. The passages in 1 Corinthians 12-14 can be interpreted in light of the clear passage of Acts 2.

*A gift does not divide a Church, but a gift accompanied with pride will divide any Church.*

## **ARE TONGUES FOR TODAY?**

Yes, but rarely. If a person is in a cross-cultural setting or foreign country where another language would be useful to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ, the gift of Tongues can be operative. Since most of the people at Rolling Hills speak English, it is really not necessary to have the gift of Tongues. (For more information, see the Rolling Hills Community Church Doctrinal Statement.)

### **DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT?**

Yes, as they are defined in Scripture. An example is the above treatment on Tongues.

### **DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD STILL HEALS TODAY?**

Yes. There are three types of healing in the Bible — physical, emotional and spiritual. Most people concentrate on the first when they ask this question. God can and does physically heal, however it seems to be the exception rather than the rule. At times, God's healing is due to our faith, but other times it is up to His Sovereign will. We believe that we should: Expect the answer "Yes!" and accept the answer "No!"

### **DO YOU HAVE WOMEN ELDERS?**

No. The Bible does not give one example of a woman Elder. We believe that this was not a cultural issue, but a very important biblical principle that is applicable to all generations. We also believe that this view holds true only in the Church and the Christian Family. 1 Timothy 2:12 states that women are not to teach or have authority over men. In the context, it is talking about Timothy's role as the Pastor of the Church and public worship. Therefore, the two roles we see that a woman cannot have in the Church are being the Senior Pastor or being an Elder.

*Men and women are equal before God but have different roles, in the family and in the church.*

### **WHAT BIBLE TRANSLATION DO YOU USE AND WHAT IS THE BEST FOR ME?**

Pastor Bill teaches mainly from The NIV Study Bible (New International Version, NIV). In addition to the NIV, he also recommends the following study Bibles and enhanced translations:

The MacArthur Study Bible (New King James Version, NKJV)

The Nelson Study Bible (New King James Version, NKJV)

The Life Application Bible (New Living Translation, NLT)

The Message Bible by Eugene Peterson

### **HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THE BIBLE?**

We interpret Scripture with a literal (or natural) historical, grammatical, and common sense approach.

Literal means that the stories the Bible relates actually did take place and the characters were real people. For example, Adam and Eve and the garden of Eden really existed, and the story of Jonah and the great fish (not a whale) really did occur.

*Certain areas in the Christian life are not specifically condoned or condemned by Scripture.*

## **HOW IS THE CHRISTIAN TO LIVE IN VIEW OF THIS FACT?**

We are to follow the principles of Scripture with the understanding that everything we do is to be done in faith.

## **CAN A PERSON LOSE HIS OR HER SALVATION?**

This question is asked in a variety of ways and most of the time the question is asked in view of the following Scriptures:

Hebrews 6:4-6 is by far the most serious interpretive challenge to eternal security. It is important to understand that the book of Hebrews was written to three distinct groups of Jews: 1) believers, 2) unbelievers who were intellectually convinced of the Good News, and 3) unbelievers who were attracted by the Good News of Christ but who had reached no final conviction about Him.

In 6:4 (NKJV), the phrase “once enlightened” is often taken to refer to Christians, and the accompanying warning taken to indicate the danger of losing their salvation if “they fall away” and “crucify again for themselves the Son of God.” But there is no mention of them being saved, and they are not described with any terms that apply only to believers (i.e. holy, born again, righteous, or saints).

This problem arises from inaccurately identifying the spiritual condition of those being addressed. In this case, they were unbelievers who had been exposed to God’s redemptive truth and perhaps made a profession of faith, but had not exercised genuine saving faith. In 10:26, the reference once again is to apostate Christians, not to genuine believers who are often incorrectly thought to lose their salvation because of their sins.

2 Timothy 2:12 is another passage that raises questions about eternal security—“If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.” (NKJV) The passage is teaching that those who endure give evidence of the genuineness of their faith. “If we deny Him, He also will deny us” speaks of a final, permanent denial, such as that of an apostate, not the temporary failure of a true believer like Peter. Those who so deny Christ give evidence that they never truly belonged to Him and face a fearful reality of one day being denied by Him (Matthew 10:33). 1 John 3:6 (NKJV) says, “Whoever sins (in a habitual lifestyle) has neither seen Him nor known Him.”

Revelation 3:5 is also cited as a passage that says that one can lose his or her salvation— “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” (NKJV) A divine journal records the names of all those whom God has chosen to save and who, therefore, are to possess eternal life. Under no circumstances will He erase those names, as city officials often did of undesirable people on their rolls. The point of the passage is that God will not do it and that He is not considering doing it.

***Eternal Security is God's Responsibility; Obedience is Ours.***