

GRACE CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE BIBLE

We teach that God has revealed Himself through the Bible which is the permanent record of God's interaction with humanity. The Bible consists of the 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament. The Bible was written by inspiration of God through the personalities of Spirit-controlled individuals. It was written in human language to be understood by all. It is accurate and honest like God in all matters that it addresses. It is the final authority for what we believe and how we live.

(Psalm 19 & 119; Matthew 4; Luke 24; 2Timothy 3; 2Peter 1)

GOD

We teach that there is only one true and living God who eternally exists as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that these three are co-eternal and co-equal. This God is perfect and infinite in His attributes and He alone is worthy of all glory and worship.

(Exodus 3; Deuteronomy 6; Matthew 3 & 28; John 1; Acts 5 & 17; Revelation 4 & 5)

THE FATHER

We teach God the Father, as revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures and His handiwork in creation. As Father He sends forth His Son and the Holy Spirit, to perform His will perfectly in creation, redemption and judgment.

Psalm 19:1; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 10:30; John 17:11,21; John 5:18;
John 14:26

JESUS CHRIST

We teach that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He freely added full humanity to His full deity, having been miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit in a virgin named Mary. He is the promised Messiah, who obeyed God completely and is entirely without sin. He willingly became the perfect, final, and eternal sacrifice for sin by taking our sin on Himself, shedding His blood, and dying on the cross as our substitute.

John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3; Matthew 1:18-21; John 1:14-18; Galatians 4:4; Genesis 3:15, 22:15-18; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Isaiah 9:1-7; John 15:10; Luke 22:66-71; Mark 14:36; Hebrews 4:14-15; John 10:18; Hebrews 1:3, 7:25; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus died, was buried, and physically rose from the grave, having conquered sin and death. He ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of the Father, where He continues to serve believers as their High Priest, Intercessor, and Advocate. This good news is called the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 27:50-28:10; Mark 15:22-16:13; Luke 23:44-24:12; John 19:28-20:10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 56-57; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 1:1-3, 7:25, 8:1-2; 1 John 2:1

HOLY SPIRIT

We teach that the Holy Spirit is God. He is not simply a divine force, but the third Person of the triune God. His primary ministry is to bring glory to Jesus Christ. He does this by convicting unbelievers of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and calling them to trust Jesus with their whole lives. He regenerates, seals, indwells, illumines, teaches, guides, assures, and empowers believers so that they are transformed into the image of Christ as they serve and grow in joyful obedience to the Word of God.

Genesis 1:2; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Psalm 139:7; Job 33:4; John 16:7-14; John 6:63; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; Romans 8:9-11; John 14:17; 1 Corinthians 2:14; John 14:26; John 16:13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 3:16; Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 3:18

We teach that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every believer for the glory of Christ and the edification of the church. We teach that the sign gifts such as speaking in tongues and instantaneous healing gradually became unnecessary and ceased as the New Testament was completed and as its authority was established.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 16:14; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Hebrews 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 13:8-11

MAN, AND SIN

We teach that God created man in His own image so that we might know, love, and enjoy Him. He did not evolve mankind from pre-existing life but formed the first man from the dust of the ground on the sixth day of creation. He creates us as male and female, grants us equal value, and gives us complementary differences for His glory and our good.

Genesis 1:26-27; Acts 17:26-31; Isaiah 43:7; Genesis 2:7, 15-28; 1 Corinthians 11:8; Psalm 8:3-6, 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5; Genesis 9:6

We teach that because God created human life in His image, all human life, from conception to death, deserves our protection from abortion, neglect, abuse, or euthanasia. We believe that God created mankind in His image and assigned gender to individuals: either male (man) or female (woman). He created the genders sexually and biologically different, but with equal personal dignity and value.

(Genesis 1 & 2; Exodus 20; Psalm 139; Matthew 5; James 3)

We teach that the first man, Adam, was created in innocence; but he rebelled against the revealed will of God and introduced sin into our world. His sin has infected all of creation, and as a result we are sinners by nature and by choice. We are alienated from God, lost, blind, deceived, wicked, and spiritually dead.

Genesis 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:13-14; Genesis 3:17; Romans 8:20-23; 5:12; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-18; Ephesians 2:1-3, 2:12; Colossians 1:21; Romans 1:18-32, 6:23; Isaiah 59:2

We teach that our sin makes us guilty before God and deserving of punishment. The Bible teaches that the wages of sin is death and that spiritual, physical, and eternal death is the just consequence of our rebellion. We are children of wrath and incapable of changing our dire situation. Our only hope is the grace of God.

Genesis 2:17; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:19-20; Ephesians 2:3; Revelation 21:8; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:4-10

SALVATION

We teach that salvation is the gift of God to a sinful world. All who hear the Word of God, believe the gospel, and call on the name of the Lord Jesus in repentance and faith are given new life now and forever. They are united with Him and made fully acceptable to the Father. They are forgiven of their sin, credited with the righteousness of Jesus Christ, reborn, and adopted into the family of God.

Romans 6:23; Mark 1:14-15; John 3:16; Romans 10:8-17; Ephesians 1:3-7; Romans 5:1, 18-21; John 3:3; Ephesians 1:3-5

We teach that we make no contribution to our salvation and can be saved only by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Jesus provides all that is necessary for us to be forgiven of our sin, restored to a right relationship with the Father, and kept secure as we persevere in the faith.

Ephesians 2:1-10; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 10:27-29; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Hebrews 3:12-14

We teach that salvation brings transformation. Those who receive new life in Christ are progressively changed into His image as they submit to His lordship and depend on His power.

2 Corinthians 3:18, 5:14-15, 17; Ephesians 4:21-24; Philippians 4:13; Titus 2:11-14

THE CHURCH

We teach that the church is the body and bride of Christ. Jesus promised to build His church and began fulfilling His promise when the Holy Spirit was given on the Day of

Pentecost. All who have been saved from their sin by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ are a part of His church.

Ephesians 2:22-23, 5:22-32; Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:1-47??; Ephesians 2:8-22; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Ephesians 3:20-21

We teach that the purpose of the church is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ. The church makes disciples by gathering in local assemblies to worship and enjoy God through the preaching and teaching of His Word, prayer, fellowship, the exercise of spiritual gifts, and the observance of the ordinances. The church also makes disciples by dispersing to live out the implications of the gospel in their everyday lives and by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a sinful world which must hear the good news in order to believe and be saved.

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Romans 10:13-17

We teach that the local church is to be self-governed according to the will of God as revealed in the Scriptures. Jesus is the head of the church, and every member is responsible to humbly submit to His lordship. The church is to guard its moral and doctrinal purity by graciously seeking the repentance and restoration of sinning members through the principles of church discipline found in Matthew 18:15-18, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, and 2 Corinthians 2:1-11.

Titus 1:5; 1 Timothy 5:17; Ephesians 1:22, 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Luke 9:23

We teach that the Lord Jesus commanded His church to observe two ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper. These ordinances do not contribute to the salvation of those who participate in them but serve as visual reminders of what God has done for His church.

Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Ephesians 2:8-9

ANGELS AND SATAN

We teach that angels are spirit beings created by God to serve and worship Him. They are messengers of God who promote His rule and minister to believers.

Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 148:2-5; Colossians 1:16; Psalm 103:20; Isaiah 6:1-3; Hebrews 1:6; Luke 2:9-10; Psalm 91:11

We teach that Satan is an angel who led a rebellion against God and was cast out of heaven along with a multitude of angels that followed him. He is the enemy of God and leads the demons in a spiritual war against God and His people. He has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ but will continue to fight until he is finally thrown into the Lake of Fire where he will remain for all eternity.

Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-17; Revelation 12:7-9; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 6:11-12; 1 Peter 5:8; Genesis 3:15; 1 John 3:8; John 12:31, 16:11; Revelation 20:10

THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST AND ETERNITY

We teach the personal and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will gloriously return at any moment to establish His kingdom by delivering the world from the power of Satan and handing it over to the Father. He will raise the bodies of the dead and judge all mankind. Those who remain in their sin will be punished with eternal and conscious torment in the Lake of Fire. All who have been saved by Jesus Christ will be perfected to dwell in the presence of God, where they will fully know, love, and enjoy Him forever.

John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Luke 12:40, 17:24; 1 Corinthians 15:42; Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:14-15; Matthew 25:41; John 3:16-18; Revelation 20:11-15; 1 Corinthians 15:35-56; Psalm 16:11; Revelation 22:1-5

We teach that the events above will occur in this order. Jesus will return to remove His church from the world, and a seven year time of tribulation will follow. Following this time of wrath, Jesus will descend from heaven with believers to establish a one-thousand-year earthly kingdom. After this millennial period, Jesus will put an end to the work of Satan and create a new heaven and earth, where believers will joyfully dwell with God forever.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Daniel 9:24-27; 19:11-21, 20:1-6, 20:7-10, 21:1-4, 22:1-5

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

We teach that marriage is a picture of Christ's relationship with His bride, the church. God designed it to be the union of one man and one woman in a covenant relationship for a lifetime. It is the God-ordained framework for intimate companionship, the pattern for procreation, and the proper channel for sexual expression.

Ephesians 5:22-33; Genesis 2:15-25; Matthew 19:3-9; Genesis 2:18, 1:27-28, 2:24-25; Proverbs 5:15-20

We teach God has given husbands and wives complementary roles in marriage. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He is to provide for, protect, and lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband as unto the Lord. She is to respect him and serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Genesis 2:15, 18; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:1-2, 7

We teach that the family is the foundational institution of human society. Families are made up of individuals who are related to one another by biblical marriage, blood, or adoption. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. God has given parents the responsibility of displaying Christ's love for His

church through their marriage relationship. They are to teach their children spiritual and moral values, model a consistent lifestyle of loving discipline, and demonstrate wise decision making based on biblical truth. Children have a responsibility to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:27-28, 2:24; Psalm 139:13, 127:3, 112:1-2; Proverbs 20:7, 31:28; Colossians 3:21; Proverbs 1:8; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20

SUMMARY

We teach that this Statement of Faith accurately reflects the teaching of the Bible. It summarizes the essence of our faith, shapes our conduct, and unifies us as a church. It is to the praise and glory of God that we hold fast to these truths.