



WHAT WE TEACH

Statement of Faith

Revised February 14, 2020

Preface

Recognizing that the Bible is the very Word of the living God to man and understanding the priority of knowing and obeying its truths, the Elders at Grace Bible Fellowship are deeply committed to studying and teaching Scripture with diligence and authority.

Therefore, at the heart of the ministry here at Grace is the continuous imparting of biblical truth to the people of God in order that they may know God and serve Him in worship and ministry.

This doctrinal statement presents the Elders' convictions regarding theological truths of the Bible. These are the primary doctrines of the Christian faith and they reflect the heart of the teaching here at Grace Bible Fellowship.

Each person who chooses to worship and minister at Grace, or each person who is considering aligning themselves with Grace is encouraged to read and review the following doctrines. While it is not necessary for each member of Grace Bible Fellowship to be in full agreement with every doctrine stated herein, it must be recognized that these written doctrines are used as a plumb line to determine both faith and practice in all the various ministries at Grace Bible Fellowship – whether to children, teens, or adults.

The Scriptures

We teach that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the full record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. We teach that different men, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, were supernaturally moved along by the Holy Spirit to record God's very words, inerrant in the original writings. Therefore, those applying themselves to study its literal, historical-grammatical context can accurately understand God's Word. We teach that Scripture is fully trustworthy as our final and sufficient authority for all of life ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#)).

The Triune God

We teach that there is but one living and true God, eternally ([John 17:3](#)) existing in perfect unity as three equally and fully divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)). We teach that each member of the Godhead, while executing distinct but complementary roles in redemptive history, has precisely the same nature, attributes, and being, and is equally worthy of the same glory and honor and obedience ([John 1:1-4](#); [Acts 5:3-4](#)).

God the Father

We teach that God the Father created all things in six literal days for His glory according to His own will ([Revelation 4:11](#)), through His Son, Jesus Christ. He upholds all things by the Word of His power and grace, exercising sovereign headship over all creation, providence, and redemption ([Colossians 1:17](#), [Hebrews 1:3](#)).

God the Son

We teach that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, moved by love in accordance with the will of the Father, took on human flesh ([John 1:1, 14, 18](#)). Conceived through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the virgin Mary. We teach that He, being truly God and truly man ([John 14:8-9](#)), lived a sinless life and sacrificially shed His blood and died on the cross in our place accomplishing redemption for all who place their faith in Him. We teach that He arose visibly and bodily from the dead three days later and ascended into heaven, where, at the Father's right hand, He is now Head of His Body the Church, the only Savior and Mediator between God and man, and will return to earth in power and glory to consummate His redemptive mission ([1 Timothy 3:16](#)).

God the Spirit

We teach that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ during this age. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He draws the unredeemed to repentance and faith, and at salvation imparts new spiritual life to the believer, bringing that person into union with Christ and the Body of Christ. We teach that the Holy Spirit sanctifies, seals, fills, guides, instructs, comforts, equips, empowers, permanently indwells at salvation, and bestows spiritual gifts to the believer for Christ-like living and service. We teach that no 'word from the Lord,' feeling, impression, or message from the Holy Spirit will ever contradict or supersede what He has already said in the Bible. We also teach the repudiation of the prosperity movement, which is often connected with miraculous spiritual gifts ([John 16:8; 13:15; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:22, 4:11-12; Romans 8:9-17, 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 12:4-5, 12:11-13, 12:19; Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 2:1-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12](#)).

Creation

We teach a literal interpretation of Genesis 1-3, creation out of nothing (ex nihilo), the special creation of a historical Adam and Eve, a historical Noah, and a worldwide flood. We do not think there is evidence that persuades us to affirm species to species evolution.

We teach Adam and Eve, the parents of the entire human race, were real people who were created in innocence, without sin and with the capacity, desire, and mandate to glorify God in all things. We teach that all human beings, whether in the womb or out, regardless of age or level of health, are images of God and are, therefore, inherently valuable and worthy of respect (thus, while loving those involved in these practices, we strongly oppose abortion and euthanasia). We teach that in Adam's sin the whole human race fell, inherited the guilt of his sin and a sinful nature, became spiritually dead, enslaved to sin, and alienated from God so that all are now sinners both by nature and by choice. We teach that all humanity is guilty before God, totally infected by sin and incapable of saving himself from his depraved condition, leaving every single human that has ever lived hopelessly lost and awaiting the unending wrath of God. This understanding of human beings leads us to reject any concept of universal salvation ([Genesis 1:26-31, 2:15-3:20, 6:5, 8:21, 9:6; 1 Kings 8:46; Psalm 8:3-8, 14:1-3, 143:2; Proverbs 6:16-19; Ecclesiastes 7:20, 8:11; Isaiah 13:11, 43:7; Jeremiah 17:9; Ezekiel 18:4; Matthew 7:11, 10:31, 12:12; John 3:19, 6:44, 6:65; Romans 1:18-32, 3:9-23, 5:10-21, 6:17, 6:20, 6:23, 7:18, 8:7-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14, 11:7, 15:48-49; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:1-3, 2:11-12, 4:17-18; Colossians 1:21, 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:12; 2 Timothy 2:26; Titus 3:3; James 2:10-11, 3:9; 1 John 1:8, 1:10; Revelation 4:11](#)).

Men and Women

We teach that God created both men and women in His image, making both genders completely equal in value and dignity and equally worthy of respect (contrary to all forms of abuse or belittling of either gender which we strongly oppose). However, they are not identical but instead are complementary in both role and function. In other words, in the church and in the home, men have been given the responsibility of leading and women have been given the responsibility of following that leadership. The Scriptures clearly state that only men are to serve in the office of Elder and that women are not to serve in church positions in which they exercise authority over men or in which they teach doctrine to men. We teach what the Bible has always taught and has clear historical precedent, that marriage is between one man and one woman and marriage roles have always been part of God's good creation, being ordained by Him before sin entered the world ([Genesis 1:26-27, 2:18-24, 5:1-2, 9:6; Mark 10:1-12; 1 Corinthians 11:3, 11:34-37; 1 Timothy 2:11-14, 3:1-2; Titus 1:6-9; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; James 3:9; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9](#)).

Salvation

We teach that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as the substitutionary atonement in our place, and that salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ. We teach that before Creation, God chose those who would be saved and granted this unearned grace solely based on His sovereign good pleasure. We teach that Jesus Christ's death on the cross was the sole and complete payment for sins, fully satisfying God's righteous wrath, for each person that turns from sin in repentance and places their faith in Christ alone by grace alone. At salvation, each person is made a new creation by the Holy Spirit, declared righteous before God, and secured as an adopted child of God forever. We teach that genuine faith continues in obedience and love for Jesus Christ with a life eager to glorify God and persevere to the end. We teach that every saved person is involved in a daily conflict - the new creation in Christ doing battle against the flesh - but adequate provision is made for victory through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The struggle nevertheless stays with the believer all through this earthly life and is never completely ended. All claims to the eradication of sin in this life are unscriptural. As long as we dwell in these fleshly bodies, eradication of sin is not possible, but the Holy Spirit does provide for victory over sin ([Romans 8:37-39; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 7-8](#)).

The Church

We teach that upon placing one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, the believer is made part of the Body of Christ, the one universal Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The Scriptures command believers to gather locally in order to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, fellowship, the ordinances of baptism and communion, service to the local body through the development and use of talents and spiritual gifts, and outreach to the world to make disciples ([Ephesians 1:22-23; Acts 2:42-46; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Matthew 28:18-20](#)). Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the Church under the watchful care of a plurality of elders. A church's members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ ([Ephesians 4:16](#)).

Baptism and Communion

We teach that Christian baptism is a public declaration of the believer's salvation in Christ, identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection symbolized by immersion in water. We teach that the Lord's

Supper is the united commemoration by believers of Christ's death until He comes and should be preceded by a careful self-examination ([Acts 2:41](#); [Romans 6:3-6](#); [1 Corinthians 11:20-29](#)).

Missions

We teach that it is the aim, duty, and privilege of every believer and local church fellowship to glorify God by responding as active participants in the Great Commission call of Jesus Christ to go and make disciples of all nations ([Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Acts 1:8](#)).

Things to Come

We teach and expectantly await the glorious, visible, and personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The blessed hope of His return has vital bearing on the personal life, service, and mission of the believer ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)). We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost. The lost will be raised to judgment and experience eternal conscious punishment in the lake of fire. The saved will be raised to eternal joy in the new heaven and new earth in the manifested presence of God ([Acts 1:3, 1:9](#); [Hebrews 7:25-26](#)).