



Grace Community Church Statement of Faith

We Believe:

1. In the verbal, complete inspiration of the Old and New Testaments and hold them to be the inerrant Word of God, the supreme and final authority.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

- Matthew 5:17-18

"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." - II Timothy 3:16-17

(See also II Peter 1:20-21; Luke 1:1-3, 16:17; John 10:35; Genesis 3:4-5)

2. In one God, Creator of all things, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." - Genesis 1:1

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ..." - Matthew 28:19

(See also Isaiah 45:5; Mark 12:29-32; Psalm 90:3; I Corinthians 13:12; John 1:1-20 and 6:27; Acts 5:3-4)

3. That Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. He lived a sinless life and died for our sins according to the Scriptures - as a representative, substitutionary and complete sacrifice. He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and is today our High Priest and Advocate.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." - John 1:14 - Genesis 1:1

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. ..." - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

(See also John 1:1, 14:8; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38 and 24:23-40; Isaiah 7:14; I Corinthians 15:22; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-10, 13:5, 7:25; I John 3:5; Romans 5:1-11 and 10:9-10; II Corinthians 5:17, 21; Acts 1:1-11; I Peter 3:22)

4. In the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement - to regenerate, sanctify, baptize, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. He indwells every believer in Christ, and is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession. ..." - Ephesians 1:13-14

(See also John 3:5-7; 14:16-17; 16:7-11, 13; Matthew 28:19; II Thessalonians 2:7; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 8:26-27)

5. That man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, lost, without hope, except in His sovereign mercy and grace.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." - Genesis 1:27

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." - Romans 6:23

(See also Genesis 5:1; I Corinthians 11:7)

6. That salvation is received by faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ. All who trust in Him alone are justified and assured of eternal life by His shed blood.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." - Ephesians 2:8-9

(See also John 3:16; I John 3:1-2; Romans 3:14-17)

7. That Christians are called to live a holy life of service and testimony for the glory of God and the well-being of their fellow man.

"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" - 1 Peter 1:15-16

"The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." - John 12:25-26

(See also Acts 1:18; I Corinthians 3:12-15)

8. The universal Church embraces all true believers. It is the body and bride of Christ, formed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The local church consists of a community of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith and associated for worship, work and fellowship.

"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." - Ephesians 1:22-23

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ." - 1 Corinthians 12:12

(See also Ephesians 4:11-16 and 5:24,30; I Corinthians 12:13,27; Hebrews 10:24-25)

9. In the imminent coming of Christ for his Church and the visible and personal coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to establish his worldwide Kingdom on the earth.

"... While we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ..." - Titus 2:13

"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory." - Matthew 24:30

(See also I Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:4-10; Matthew 24:21, 29; 25:31, 46; Revelation 3:10 and 20:11-15)

10. In the bodily resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous; the righteous to everlasting communion with God - the unrighteous to everlasting separation from God.

"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned." - John 5:28-29

(See also John 14:1-3; I Thessalonians 4:15-18; II Thessalonians 1:6-10; Luke 16:22-28; Revelation 20:11-15)

11. That Satan and his demons are about the business of attempting to destroy the power and work of Christ, and the authority of the Word of God.

"Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." - I Peter 5:8

(See also Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 14:11; 19:20; 20:10)

12. The ordinances of the church, given by our Lord, are baptism and the Lord's Table.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you. ..." - Acts 2:38

"Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'" - Matthew 26:26-29

(See also Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:12,13, 36,41; Romans 6:3-4)

13. In the great commission our Lord gave to His Church, which is to evangelize and make disciples of all nations, and that this is the great mission of the Church.

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.'" - Mark 16:15

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'" - John 20:21

(See also Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:44-49; John 12:24-26; Acts 1:8,36-37; I Peter 3:15-16)