



**Statement of Faith
Of
Grace Community Church**

Statement of Faith

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is God's written revelation to man, and thus the sixty six books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit constitute the plenary (inspired equally in all parts) Word of God (1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

We believe that the Word of God is verbally inspired in every word (2 Timothy 3:16), absolutely inerrant in the original documents, infallible, and God breathed. We teach the literal, grammatical historical interpretation of Scripture.

We believe that the Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice (Matthew 5:18; 24:35; John 10:35; 16:12-13; 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

We teach that God spoke in His written Word by a process of dual authorship. The Holy Spirit so superintended the human authors that, through their individual personalities and different styles of writing, they composed and recorded God's Word to man (2 Peter 1:20-21) without error in whole or in part (Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16). We teach that, whereas there may be several applications of any given passage of Scripture, there is but one true interpretation. The meaning of Scripture is to be found as one diligently applies the literal grammatical historical method of interpretation under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit (John 7:17; 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-15; 1 John 2:20). It is the responsibility of believers to ascertain carefully the true intent and meaning of Scripture, recognizing that proper application is binding on all generations. Yet the truth of Scripture stands in judgment of men; never do men stand in judgment of it.

2. The Godhead

We believe in the One Triune God, Who is personal, spirit and sovereign (Mark 12:29; John 4:24; Psalm 135:5); perfect, infinite, and eternal in His being, holiness, love, grace, mercy, wisdom and power. Thus He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent (Jeremiah 23:24; 1 John 3:20; Revelation 19:6); absolutely separate and above the world as its Creator, yet everywhere present in the world as the Upholder of all things. He is self-existent and self-revealing in three distinct persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (John 5:26; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14) each of whom is to be honored and worshiped equally as God (John 5:23; Acts 5:3-4). Therefore in unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equally in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (John 6:44; 14:6; Ephesians 1:13; 2:22).

3. The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice. Our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where as our High Priest, He

fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate. (Luke 1:35; John 1:1,2,14; Acts 1:9,10; Romans 3:24,25; 8:34; Ephesians 1:17; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24; 1 John 2:1-2)

4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit is the Divine Teacher who empowers, guides, teaches, bears witness to, and helps the believer. It is the privilege and duty of all believers to be filled with the Spirit. (John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14)

5. The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man. His powers are supernaturally great, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God, who overrules all his wicked devices for good. Satan was defeated and judged at the cross and therefore his final doom is certain and shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. We as believers are able to resist and overcome him only in the armor of God, the power of the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus Christ. (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Ephesians 6:12-18; Revelation 12:11; 20:10)

6. Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of Creation and believe that man came directly by the Creation of God, and not by evolution. We believe that God through Moses sought to convey the idea of the 24-hour day period in Creation. (Genesis 1 and 2; Exodus 20:8-11; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-3, 10)

7. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created innocent, in perfect harmony with the moral government of God; however, by voluntary personal disobedience to the revealed will of God he broke that harmony and became sinful. We believe that without exception the race of man is morally corrupt and that by reason of conscience and will the individual is guilty and deserves the wages of sin, which is death. As a fallen race within ourselves we have no possible means of recovery or salvation. (Genesis 3:1-24; Matthew 19:26; Mark 7:21-23; Romans 3:23; 7:18; Ephesians 2:3)

8. The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of the Virgin Mary. Christ is both the Son of God and God the Son (Matthew 1:18-25)

9. The Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ. Who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full vicarious atonement for our

sins. His atonement consisted not of setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree, that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior. (Romans 3:24; 5:8; Isaiah 53:5-6; Matthew 20:28; Galatians 2:13; John 1:29; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:25-28; Hebrews 4:14, 9:24; I John 2:1)

10. Grace in the New Creation

We believe in salvation by grace through faith, and that salvation is a free gift from God neither merited nor secured in part or in whole by any virtue or work of man, but received

only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ all believers have as a present possession the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, sonship in the family of God, deliverance and security from all condemnation, every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness, and the divine guarantee that we will never perish. Apart from Christ there is no possible salvation and in order to be saved, sinners must be born again, and this new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus and it is instantaneous and not a process.

In this new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God. This new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth. The evidence of this new creation appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. (Titus 3:5; John 3:16; 1 John 5:13; Ephesians 1:3; Acts 4:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:3; Romans 6:1-6)

11. The Freeness of Salvation

We believe in God's electing grace that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel. This Grace is received by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. The failure to receive this gift of Grace is eternal condemnation apart from God in Hell. (Matthew 11:28; John 3:16; Romans 9:13)

12. Justification

We believe that the blessings of the Gospel, which Christ secured through His sacrifice to all who believe, include Justification. Justification is that work of Christ which includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life. This justification excludes any works of righteousness that we have done, but is solely through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. His righteousness is imputed to us. (Romans 5:1; 3:21-28; 4:25; 13:39; 5:16-18; Ephesians 2:8-9)

13. The Local Church

We believe the local church is a congregation of believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ (baptism and the Lord's Supper), governed by His Word, that its officers are Pastors and Deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties, are clearly

defined in the Bible. The true mission of the Church is to honor God by reaching people with the Good News of Jesus Christ and teaching them to become fully devoted followers of Him. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government and the one and only Superintendent is Christ, who is the Head of the church in working through the Holy Spirit. It is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and the furtherance of the Gospel. (Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11-12; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:15-16)

14. Church Ordinances

A. Baptism

The word baptism is derived from the Greek word "baptizo" which means to plunge, dip, submerge, immerse. Therefore we practice baptism by immersion as an identification of the believer with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The old life is past and the believer signifies in emerging from the water that he has newness of life because of saving faith in Christ. (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Acts 2:41-42; Romans 6:1-6; 1 Peter 3:21)

B. Communion

This ordinance is the commemoration of the Death and Substitutionary Sacrifice of Christ until He returns. It is an opportunity to remember what Christ has done for us and should always be preceded by solemn self-examination. (Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

15. Missions

We believe that it is the privilege and obligation of all believers to witness by life and by word to the truths of the Word of God and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

16. The Ministry of Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts and that the New Testament gifts are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today. (John 15:7; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12; 1 John 5:14-15)

17. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society. We believe that those in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things that oppose the will of our God. (Proverbs 8:15; Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1; Revelation 19:16)

18. The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in the "Blessed Hope", the personal imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones. We believe in His subsequent return to earth with His saints to establish His millennial Kingdom. (Zechariah 14:4-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

19. The Eternal State

A. The Bodily Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment in Hell. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-13)

B. The Souls of the Redeemed

We believe the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection when their bodies shall be raised from the grave and changed into likeness of His own glorious body. (Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4-6)

C. The Souls of Unbelievers

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when they appear at the Great White Throne Judgment. Then they shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6, 7; Revelation 20:11-15)