

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH ~ STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe that the Bible (Old Testament and New Testament) is the inerrant and plenary Word of God and that "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." *I Corinthians 2:13-16; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21*
2. We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature, attributes, and perfection. *Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:29; I Corinthians 2:13-14*
3. We believe in the Personality and Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, eternally preexistent and eternally God, begotten of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, truly God and truly Man. *Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-3, 14, 10:30; Galatians 4:4; Colossians 2:9; I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:8*
4. We believe in the personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ, that the coming again of Jesus Christ is the blessed Hope set before us for which we should be constantly looking. "Our citizenship is in heaven from whence we look for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." *John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; Titus 2:11-14; I John 2:28, 3:1-3; Revelation 22:20; I Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18*
5. We believe that Jesus Christ became the sinner's substitute before God and died as a completely satisfactory sacrifice for the sin of the whole world, that He redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming accursed in our place, dying the just for the unjust according to the Scriptures. We believe that He rose, bodily, from the dead and with that victory accomplished the opportunity for the sinner to receive salvation. *Matthew 28; Mark 16; John 1:29; Romans 1:4, 3:26; I Corinthians 15; II Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 2:14-23; Ephesians 1:7; Galatians 3:13, 4:9-11; I Peter 1:18-19, 23, 2:24, 3:18*
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6. We believe that man was created in the image of God to serve God and enjoy Him forever, but that with Adam's sin, man fell from his relationship with God. We believe that the only salvation from our condition is the free gift of Grace offered by God through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. *Genesis 1:26, 3:6; I Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:5; John 3:3-8, 16-18, 36, 14:6; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:12, 6:23*
7. We believe Marriage has been ordained by God as the lifelong union of one man and one woman in the mutual and exclusive covenant of loving fidelity. In all matters of sexuality, the Biblical standard is defined by the Holiness of God and His instruction on marriage which prohibits all other forms of sexual activity. *Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:22-33; I Corinthians 7:1-5; I Corinthians 6:15-20; Romans 1:21-27*

8. We believe that the Church is composed of all who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. It is the body and bride of Christ. We believe that every believer, whether Jew or Gentile, is baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit and that no second work of grace manifested by special signs is necessary for salvation. We believe that having thus become members of one another, we are responsible to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *Matthew 16:16-18; Romans 12:4-5; Colossians 3:14-15; I Corinthians 1:10-13, 12:12-27; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22*

9. We believe our Lord established two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion), and that as often as we do, we do it remembering His death and resurrection. *Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-32; Acts 2:41, 19:4-5*

10. We believe in heaven and the eternal reward of the saved. We believe in hell and the eternal punishment of the lost. We believe in the reality and personality of Satan and that he works to keep men from God and to frustrate the growth of the individual Christian and the growth of the Church, both spiritually and numerically. *Matthew 25:26; John 4:14, 5:24, 28-29; II Corinthians 11:14; Ephesians 2:6-7, 6:11-12; Hebrews 2:14-15; I Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9, 20:1-3, 10*

11. We believe that Christ in all His fullness is received by faith alone and that the moment we trust Him as our Savior and Lord we pass out of death into everlasting life, justified from all things, accepted before the Father according to the measure of His acceptance, loved as He is loved, and made one with Him. *John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24, 6:47, 10:27-29, 20:31; Colossians 2:6; Romans 4:5, 24-25, 5:1, 10:9-10; Ephesians 1:3-8, 2:4-9*

12. We believe that all believers should be careful to maintain good works and walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. We believe that though the flesh is never eradicated in this life, it can be controlled by the indwelling of the Spirit of God as the believer increasingly submits to the indwelling of the Spirit of God, a life of purity expresses the sanctification of God in the believers' life. *Romans 12:1-2, 14:13-21; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:2-3; Titus 2:11-14; I John 1:4-10, 2:15-17*

13. We believe in the Great Commandment, that we should love God with all of our being. We believe in the Great Commission, that it is our responsibility to make disciples of all nations, beginning at home, neglecting neither those in foreign countries nor those in our neighborhoods. *Matthew 22:37, 28:19-20*