



## Grace Church Doctrinal Statement

### THE WORD OF GOD

We believe that the Bible is the unchangeable Word of God written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through the use of the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which all human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, the Word of God is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

(2 Peter 1:20-21, Proverbs 30:5, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16-18)

### THE TRINITY

We believe in one living and true God, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, redemption, and have limitless knowledge and sovereign power.

(Genesis 1:27, Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19-20, John 17:11, Hebrews 9:14)

### GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He is involved in the lives of people, not wishing that any should perish but that all should repent. We further believe that He hears and answers prayers, and that He saves from sin and eternal death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

(John 4:23-24, Psalms 18:30, Psalms 77:13, Psalms 66:19, Romans 3:22-24)

### JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. As God's one and only Son, He was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life, was crucified, arose physically from the dead, ascended and was exalted into heaven, and now sits at the right hand of God the Father as our perpetual High Priest and intercessor.

(John 3:16, Matthew 1:18-20, 22, Hebrews 4:15, Acts 1:9-11, Philippians 2:9-11, Hebrews 7:25)

### THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit who was sent from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, guide believers toward righteousness, and warn sinners of judgment. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ as He regenerates and sanctifies sinners, and indwells, illuminates, guides, equips, and empowers every believer for Christ-like living and service.

(Genesis 1:2, Job 33:4, John 16:7-11, Titus 3:5-7; John 14:16-17, Romans 8:9-11, 26-27)

## THE WORK OF CHRIST

We believe that God created humankind in His image, but those first humans sinned when tempted by Satan. Like Adam and Eve, all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are therefore under God's judgment. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed his blood, dying on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only grounds for salvation, reconciliation to God, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit.

(Genesis 3:1-24, Romans 5:12, I John 4:10, I Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:4-9, Titus 3:5-7)

## ETERNAL DESTINY

We believe in the personal, visible and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body and the final judgment: of the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment, and of the righteous to eternal blessing and joy. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to such things as godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

(Acts 1:10-11, Hebrews 9:28, Zechariah 14:9, Matthew 25:31, 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)

## THE CHURCH

We believe in the universal Church: a living spiritual body with Jesus Christ as the head and all who are justified by God's grace as its members. The universal Church is manifest in local churches, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, service, and community. We believe that God has laid upon the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

(Matthew 16:15-18, Ephesians 4:15-16, Hebrews 10:25, Romans 12:4-8, Matthew 28:19-20)

## THE ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has mandated two ordinances to the local church: Baptism and Communion (the Lord's Supper). Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances visibly and tangibly express the gospel. We believe that Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the triune God. We believe that Communion was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 8:36-38, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

## CHRISTIAN LIVING AND MISSION

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith through such things as caring for one another, showing compassion toward the poor, and championing justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and action.

(Luke 10:27, John 13:35, Matthew 25:34-40, Isaiah 1:17)