

The Grace Church Congregational Affirmation of Faith

Adopted on November 23, 2008

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts. It is the written record of God's supernatural revelation of Himself to man, absolute in its authority, complete in its revelation, final in its content, and therefore constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice. *2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:13; John 17:17; Heb. 4:12*

THE TRINITY

We believe that there is one true God, eternally existent, creator of heaven and earth, perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, and manifested in three persons: FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT. These three persons are one God; distinct in personal attributes, yet without division of nature, essence, and being. They execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. *Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; John 14:9; 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 John 5:7; Gen 1:2*

GOD THE FATHER

We believe that God the Father is an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. *Luke 10:21-22; Matt. 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Rom. 1:7; 1 Tim 1:1-2; 2:5-6; 1 Pet. 1:3; Rev. 1:6*

JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is God the Father's only begotten Son. We believe He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles and taught divine truth. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to the earth. *Matt. 1:18-25; 20:28; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; 30-31; Rom. 5:6-8; 6:9-10; 9:5; 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:4; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet 2:21-23;*

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person of the Trinity who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to supernaturally regenerate all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe He indwells, sanctifies, instructs, guides, helps, and empowers all believers for service. We believe He baptizes all believers into the body of Christ upon regeneration, sealing them unto the day of redemption. *John 3:3-8; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; Rom. 3:9; 6:19; 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 3:16; 12:4-7, 13; 13:8; Gal. 5:22-26*

MAN

We believe that God directly created man in His image to glorify Him. We believe that by one man's disobedience (Adam), all were made sinners thereby incurring the penalty of physical, spiritual and eternal death, and the wrath of God. Therefore, all people are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation, being hopelessly lost apart

from the saving grace of God through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. We believe that there is a difference between the righteous and the wicked. *Gen. 2:7-25; Mal. 3:18; Rom. 5:12, 19; Eph. 2:1-3; Jas. 3:9; Rev. 4:11*

SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly a work of grace, not of human works whatsoever. Salvation is made free to all who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The blessing that Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification. Those who are justified are also regenerated by the Holy Spirit whereby the divine nature and life are given, making them new creatures. *Mark 1:15; John 1:9; 5:1; Acts 13:39; Rom. 8:33; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Tim. 2:4; Titus 3:5; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 John 3:3-7*

SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the process, begun in justification, by which we are made partakers of God's holiness. Through the empowering of the Holy Spirit and obedience to the Word of God, the believer is able to live a life of increasing holiness in conformity to the will of God, becoming more and more Christ-like. True believers are kept eternally by God's power and thus are secure in Christ forever, but sin may interrupt the joy of his fellowship with God and bring divine chastening. *John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23; Heb 12:6-11; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24*

THE CHURCH

UNIVERSAL: All regenerated believers are immediately placed into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, the bride of Christ, of which Christ is the head. *1 Cor. 12:13; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:22-32*

LOCAL: A congregation of baptized believers who have committed themselves to one another to carry out the commission given by Jesus Christ by gathering for worship, work, and fellowship under the leadership of qualified men who serve and lead by lovingly shepherding the flock. *Acts 2:41-47; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3: 1-13; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 5:1-3*

ORDINANCES

We believe that the Church has two scriptural ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the baptism of a believer as a testimony of his salvation. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death until He returns. *Matt. 3:13, 16; 28:19; Luke 22:19; Rom 6:4; 1 Cor. 11:26*

THE FUTURE

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal joy of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked. *Matt. 16:27; 25:1-23; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Phil. 3:20; 1 Thess. 4:15; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2 Tim. 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 4:5; 15:1-58; Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15*