

GRACE BIBLE SCHOOL STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. **God** is the creator of heaven and earth and of all living creatures on earth and in heaven. God has revealed Himself in the Trinity; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit co-equal in being, co-equal in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. God the Father is the first person of the trinity.
2. **Jesus Christ** is God, was born of a virgin, lived a perfect and sinless life, died on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice, rose bodily, ascended to heaven to the right hand of the Father; where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. He is fully God and fully man inseparably united in one person forever. Jesus Christ will return again in bodily form to judge the world and set up the Kingdom of God forever. Jesus Christ is the second person of the trinity.
3. **The Holy Spirit** is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the supernatural agent of regeneration, and baptizes and seals all believers into the body of Christ. He is the Divine Teacher who guides all believers into all truth. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity.
4. **Man** was created in the image of God by a direct act of God and did not come into being as the result of evolution. Man was created to glorify God, worship and serve Him, and have fellowship with Him. Man fell through sin by disobeying God, thus incurring both physical and spiritual death, which alienated him from God. Man's nature was thus corrupted and he is utterly lost, "dead in trespasses and sins," and totally incapable of saving himself and coming back into right relationship with God by his own merit or effort.
5. **Satan** is the author of sin and the great deceiver of the world. Satan is a real spirit being, not simply the symbol of evil. He is a fallen angel who, under the sovereign permission of God, has been given temporary rule over the earth and the world system. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire known as Hell.
6. **The Bible** consisting of the Old and New Testaments was verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures as originally given, and is the inerrant and authoritative Word of God. It is the power of God for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
7. **Salvation and Eternal life** were provided by our Lord's shed blood on the cross and His substitutionary death. Salvation is a free gift to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives, and is through grace alone. Salvation is only appropriated by a person placing his faith in the finished work of Christ. Repentance is a turning toward God and away from sin and is a part of, but not separate from, believing faith. Those who receive Jesus Christ by faith are born again, have their sins forgiven, become children of God, are a new creation in Christ, and "are sealed by the Holy spirit unto the day of redemption", being kept by the power of God.
8. **The universal Church** consists only of those who are born again and are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ at the time of regeneration. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head, Builder, Owner, and Nourisher of the Church.
9. **The local Church** is established for worship, edification of the believer, fellowship, witnessing to the world and making disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the primary organism used by God to carry out the "Great Commission" and receives its power and authority for this work from Christ himself.
10. **Spiritual Gifts** are given to each member of the Body of Christ for the good of the Body according to the will of God. We also believe that Jesus Christ gave gifted men to the church for the equipping of the saint to do the work of the ministry. We believe that the sign gifts were primarily designed to authenticate God's apostolic messengers and to conform their message (2 Corinthians 12:12). However, as the church was established and as the New Testament Scripture were completed, these sign gifts ended (Hebrews 2:3-4, Romans 10:17).
11. **Ordinances of the church** recognized by Scripture are water baptism and the Lord's Supper. Water baptism by immersion is an act of obedience following salvation which symbolically pictures the believer's death to sin, burial of the old life, and resurrection to new life. The Lord's Supper celebrates fellowship and communion with Christ, symbolically commemorates His death, and anticipates His second coming.
12. **Every Christian** should live for Christ and not for himself and should, by the power of the indwelling Spirit,

allow Christ to live His life through him to God's glory. By ever increasing obedience to the Word of God, each believer should mature and progressively become more like Jesus. Under the authority of the local church, each believer should be personally involved in making disciples to fulfill the great commission; perform good works and bear fruit to the glory of God.

13. **Prayer** is the great resource of the believer and of the church in communicating with God to present our praise, thanksgiving, confession, and our petitions and intercessions for ourselves and others.

14. **The return of the Lord Jesus Christ** is imminent. He will return in bodily form and will be visible to the believers in the rapture of the Church, and to all mankind in His second coming to set up the Kingdom of God on earth. The saved will be raised to everlasting life and blessedness in Heaven, and the unsaved will be raised to everlasting and conscious punishment in Hell.