

Grace Community Church Constitution: *Article III*

Statement of Faith – Scriptural Support

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe...

- 1) The Old Testament is the verbally inspired Word of God (John 10:34-36).
- 2) The New Testament is the verbally inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:15-17).
- 3) The Bible was written by men in God's control (1 Cor. 2:12-13).
- 4) The Bible is without error and infallible in the original manuscripts (2 Pet. 1:19-21)
- 5) The Bible is the final authority in faith and life (Psalm 19:7-9).

THE TRINITY

We believe...

- 1) That God is One (Deut. 6:4).
- 2) That God is Eternal (1 Tim. 1:17).
- 3) That Deity exists in three Persons (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).
 - a) The Father (Gal. 1:1)
 - b) The Son (Col. 1:19)
 - c) The Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10-14)
- 4) That the three Persons of the Trinity are identical in essence (James 2:19).
- 5) That the three Persons of the Trinity possess the same attributes and perfections (Jn. 5:17-23, 32).

THE CONDITION OF MAN

We believe...

- 1) People were created in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26, 27).
- 2) People were created in innocence and without sin (Gen. 2:1-24).
- 3) That in Adam's sin, humanity fell from innocence, and inherited a sinful nature (Rom. 5:12- 19).
- 4) That people became spiritually dead and alienated from God (Eph. 2:1-3).
- 5) That people are incapable of remedying their lost and depraved condition with God (Rom. 3:9- 23).

THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

We believe...

- 1) That the Lord Jesus Christ was eternally pre-existent (Jn. 1:1-18, 8:58).
- 2) That Jesus became a man without ceasing to be God (Lk. 1:38-39).
- 3) That Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin (Lk. 1:26-37).
- 4) That Jesus came to reveal God (Jn. 1:14) and to redeem sinful people (Rom. 3:23-26).
- 5) That Jesus voluntarily (Jn. 10:15-17) gave Himself as a sinless substitutionary sacrifice on the cross (2 Cor. 5:14, 21).
- 6) That Jesus' sacrifice satisfies God's righteous judgment against sin (Rom. 5:10-19).
- 7) In the bodily resurrection of Jesus, which confirms our redemption (1 Cor. 15:12-19).
- 8) That Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father interceding on behalf of those who trust Him (Rom. 8: 34).

THE CHURCH

We believe...

- 1) That the true Church, called in Scripture the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22,23), is a spiritual organism into which every person who has trusted Jesus Christ for salvation has been baptized with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13).
- 2) In the establishment and continuance of the local church, comprised of redeemed individuals coming together regularly for worship, instruction, fellowship and service (Acts 2:42-47).

THE ORDINANCES

We believe...

- 1) The Lord Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances to be observed by all believers until His return...
 - a) Baptism (Matt. 28:19)
 - b) The Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe...

1) In the personal (1 Thess. 4:16), imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 4:13-18) for His Church (Matt. 24; especially vs. 31).

THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe...

- 1) That at death the souls of those who have trusted Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence (2 Cor. 5:8).
- 2) That after death, the souls of believers remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming for the Church, to be with Him forever in glory (1 Cor. 15:35-44; Matt. 25:46).
- 3) That the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment (Rev. 20:11-15) when soul and body will be reunited, not to be annihilated, but to be separated from God forever in conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26).