



## Statement of Faith

Theology is important. These doctrines guide faith and practice.

### **Salvation is by grace through faith**

At God's gracious initiative, the offer of salvation was made through the atoning sacrifice of His only son. We are to trust in its sufficiency to save us, and to receive this gift of eternal life requires that we simply have child-like faith and believe.

### **The second coming is our hope**

After His resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven with a promise to one day come again and to establish His kingdom. Our hope is in the expectation of our Lord's glorious return.

### **The heralding of the gospel**

To know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is the best thing that can happen to anyone. Such good news is meant to be shared and proclaimed, to the end that all people everywhere may hear and receive.

### **The church is the body of Christ**

All believers who strive to be true disciples of the living Lord become, by a new nature, continuing expressions of Christ's presence on the earth. The church exists to save the lost and to edify the saved, just as Jesus did in His earthly ministry.

### **The Holy Spirit**

The third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, comes to dwell in believers in Jesus Christ, to empower them for witness, and to be a constant counselor, comforter, helper, guide, and teacher who always brings glory to the Lord. The Church is dependent upon the Holy Spirit for its life and strength.

### **The sovereignty of God**

There is only one true God who is the creator and sustainer of the universe. God is all-knowing, all-powerful, all-loving and is manifested to the world as one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### **The divine inspiration of Holy Scripture**

The sovereign God is the author of the Bible. The Scriptures contained in the Old Testament and the New Testament are infallible and inerrant. They reveal to us God's will for our lives.

### **The total depravity of man**

Although every person has worth as a creation of God, we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. We are by nature alienated from God and rebellious toward His will.

### **The deity of Jesus Christ**

God came to dwell for a time on the earth in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Although fully human, Jesus is also fully God. As the only Son of God, He was born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified, buried, then rose again to reign eternally as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### **The atonement by the blood of Christ**

When Jesus died on the cross, God dealt with the problem of human sin. The blood of the crucifixion paid the penalty of sin in full and made possible the one and only way for humankind to enter into fellowship with God.

### **Statement of Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

Grace Heartland Church believes that God wonderfully and fearfully creates each person as male and female (Psalm 139: 13-14). These two, distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25). We believe that God receives glory from marriage and that earthly marriage is a picture of Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 19:6-9).

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:3).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Grace Heartland Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Grace Heartland Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Grace Heartland Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Grace Heartland Church.

### **Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalm 139).

### **Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct**

The Grace Heartland Church "Statement of Faith" does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. The Grace Heartland Church pastoral team and board of elders are the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application that guides our faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline.