

Grace Baptist Church

Statement of Faith

Scripture

We believe the Bible is God's absolute, objective truth for all people for all times.¹ It is without error in concept or detail in the original writings.² It is breathed out in its entirety by God, divinely preserved, and, therefore, trustworthy.³ We believe the Holy Spirit superintended human authors so that, through their individual personalities and literary styles, they composed and recorded God's Word.⁴ It is God's written revelation complete in the sixty-six books of the Old and the New Testaments.⁵ It is the supreme authority in all matters to which it speaks and is sufficient for life, conduct, and practice – understandable by every believer.⁶ We believe Scripture must be understood through the literal, contextual, grammatical, and historical method of interpretation, and applied under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.⁷

God

We believe in the one personal, transcendent, immanent, living God revealed in the Judeo-Christian Scriptures – the creator, sustainer and sovereign ruler of all things.⁸ He is self-existent, immutable, and works all things according to the counsel of His will in order to bring glory to Himself.⁹ God's foreknowledge is exhaustive and not dependent on human decisions and actions.¹⁰ He eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.¹¹ They execute distinct but harmonious roles in creation, providence, redemption, and consummation.¹² They are equal in nature, attributes, and perfections.¹³ The holy triune God is worthy of our worship, confidence, and obedience.¹⁴

God the Father

We believe in God the Father: one in essence with the Son and the Spirit.¹⁵ He is an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in all His attributes.¹⁶ He is the creator, sustainer, and sovereign ruler of all

¹ 2 Samuel 7:28; Psalm 12:6; 33:4; 119:160; John 17:17; Titus 1:1-3; Matthew 28:18-20

² Proverbs 30:5; Matthew 5:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16-21

³ 2 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; 2 Peter 1:16-21

⁴ 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Peter 3:14-16

⁵ Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Luke 24:44-45; John 20:30-31; 1 Corinthians 14:37; Galatians 1:11-12; Revelation 22:18-19

⁶ Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 5:17-19; Acts 17:11; -- ; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:2-4; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16

⁷ 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 2 Corinthians 3:14-18; 2 Peter 1:20; 1 John 2:24-27

⁸ Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19; Psalm 83:18; Isaiah 6:1-3; 40:25-26, 28; Psalm 139:1-10; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:18-20; Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:15-18; Psalm 104; Psalm 103:19; 115:3

⁹ Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3; Exodus 3:14; Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; Psalm 102:26-27; Isaiah 14:24; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11-12

¹⁰ Romans 8:29-30; Psalm 139:1-17; 147:5; John 6:64; Isaiah 40:13-14

¹¹ Matthew 28:19; Luke 10:21; John 15:26; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:5-11

¹² Genesis 1:1-2; Job 26:13; Psalm 104; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22; John 5:17; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 1:1-14; 2:18; Titus 3:4-7; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-25

¹³ John 1:1-3; 10:30; 14:7-9, 15-18, 23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Hebrews 1:1-4, 8-12

¹⁴ Exodus 34:6-8; Psalm 29:2; 103; Isaiah 6:1-3; Matthew 4:10; Mark 12:29-31; Revelation 4:11; 5:8-14

¹⁵ Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 15:26; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 8:6; Ephesians 4:4-6

¹⁶ Exodus 3:14; John 4:24; 14:7

things through His Son Jesus Christ.¹⁷ We believe that He concerns Himself perfectly in the affairs of humanity.¹⁸ His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with the redeemed.¹⁹ Everything He does is in accordance with His perfect will, though His sovereignty does not eliminate or minimize human responsibility.²⁰ The Father adopts as His own, through Jesus Christ, all those He calls to Himself.²¹

God the Son

We believe in God the Son: one in essence with the Father and the Spirit.²² He is the one and only eternal Son of God, the exact representation of God the Father, and the preeminent revelation of God.²³ At the right time He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-slave.²⁴ He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary as Jesus, the Christ – fully God and fully man.²⁵ We believe in His sinless life, His voluntary submission to His Father's will that culminated in His substitutionary death on the cross, His burial, and His bodily resurrection.²⁶ He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.²⁷ His death on the cross atoned for our sin and satisfied the righteous demands of the holy God.²⁸ He is the only Mediator between God and human beings.²⁹ He is Prophet, Priest, and King;³⁰ the Head and Savior of His Church;³¹ the Heir of all things;³² and the Judge of all the world.³³ We believe in the imminent, personal return of Christ for His Church and in the establishment of His Kingdom on earth.³⁴

God the Holy Spirit

We believe in God the Holy Spirit: one in essence with the Father and the Son.³⁵ He was sent by God the Father and God the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.³⁶ The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ and implements Christ's work of redemption and baptism.³⁷ He regenerates, baptizes, seals, gifts, and indwells all believers at conversion, progressively sanctifying,

¹⁷ Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 103:19; 104; 135:5-6; Acts 17:24-28; Colossians 1:12-20

¹⁸ Psalm 8:3-6; 139; Matthew 5:45; 6:25-33; 10:29-31

¹⁹ Matthew 6:1-13; 10:20; John 17:1-5; 20:17, 21; Ephesians 1:2-3; 3:14-19; Colossians 1:2-3

²⁰ Psalm 135:6; Romans 8:28-29; Colossians 1:9-12; Romans 1:18-21; 9:19-24; Revelation 20:12

²¹ Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:5; John 1:11-13; 6:44, 65; Romans 8:29-30

²² Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 15:26; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:10-12

²³ John 1:1, 14-18; 3:16; 8:58; Philippians 2:5-6; Hebrews 1:1-4; Revelation 1:8

²⁴ Galatians 4:4-5; Matthew 1:23; Philippians 2:6-7

²⁵ Matthew 1:18-25; 12:8; Mark 2:1-11; Luke 1:35; John 1:1, 14; 8:58; 10:30; 14:7-9; Romans 9:5; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:14-18

²⁶ Isaiah 53; John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:11-16; John 4:34; 5:30; Matthew 26:39-44; Luke 23:44-48; 24:8, 44-47; Romans 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8;

²⁷ Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11; 2:33; Ephesians 1:19-22; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 12:2

²⁸ Isaiah 53:4-12; Matthew 20:28; Romans 3:21-26; 4:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5; Hebrews 9:11-15; 1 John 1:7; 2:2; 1 John 4:10

²⁹ 1 Timothy 2:5; John 1:1-14; Hebrews 4:14-16; 12:24

³⁰ Deuteronomy 18:18-19; Matthew 21:9-11; Luke 4:16-24; John 6:14; Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:20-8:6; Psalm 2:6; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 2:29-36

³¹ Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16; 5:23

³² Romans 8:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-2

³³ Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:22-30; Acts 10:36-42; 17:30-31; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 1 Peter 4:5

³⁴ Matthew 24:36-25:13; John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17; Psalm 2:6; Daniel 7:13-14; Zechariah 14:4, 16; Revelation 11:15; 20:4

³⁵ Isaiah 11:1-5; Ezekiel 36: 27; Matthew 28:19; Luke 4:14-21; Luke 10:21; John 14:16-17, 25-26; John 15:26; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:19-22

³⁶ John 14:15-18; 15:26; 16:8-11

³⁷ John 16:14; Romans 8:2-17; Titus 3:4-7; John 3:5; Acts 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13

and securing them in Christ forever.³⁸ The Spirit fills, leads, comforts, and intercedes for believers, empowering them for godly living and service.³⁹ His presence is evident by the fruit of the Spirit and the building up of believers into the body of Christ, the Church.⁴⁰

Humanity

We believe that humanity, male and female, is sacred in God's eyes and was uniquely created by Him, in His image and for His glory, to exercise dominion over the earth and to enjoy a relationship with Him forever.⁴¹ Every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life.⁴² After sin entered the world, humans still possess the image of God, though corrupted by sin.⁴³ God's will for humanity is that they love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love their neighbors as themselves.⁴⁴ God's command to all people is to believe in His Son Jesus Christ.⁴⁵

Family

In God's design for humanity, life begins at conception.⁴⁶ He established the institution of family through the union of one man and one woman in a marriage covenant for life.⁴⁷ His design for the continuance of humanity is through the procreation and discipleship of children within the marriage union.⁴⁸ Marriage is to be an example of the relationship between Jesus Christ and His Church.⁴⁹

Sin

We believe that sin is any action, inaction, or attitude that is contrary to the nature or Word of God, which constitutes a rejection of His authority, resulting in alienation from God.⁵⁰ Sin entered the world when Adam, representing humanity, disobeyed God.⁵¹ As a result of the one sin of Adam, his descendents – the whole human race – are separated from relationship with God, spiritually dead, and therefore in a fallen state. Being sinners by nature and choice and utterly unable to remedy their lost condition, humanity is in need of salvation.⁵²

³⁸ Titus 3:4-7; John 3:5; Acts 1:4-5; 19:5-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11; John 14:16-17; Romans 8:9-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:11, 19; Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 13:5; Jude 24-25

³⁹ Exodus 31:3; 1 Samuel 16:13; Joel 2:28-29; John 14:26; 16:13; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 5:5; 8:26; Acts 4:31; 6:5; Acts 9:31

⁴⁰ Galatians 5:22-25; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:22; 3:14-21; 4:11-16

⁴¹ Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7, 22; 5:1-2; 9:6; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 43:7; 45:12; Acts 17:26; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9

⁴² Exodus 34:6-7; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Jeremiah 17:10; Romans 1:18-20; 3:19; Hebrews 4:13; 9:27; Revelation 20:11-15

⁴³ Genesis 5:1; 6:5; 9:6; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10-18, 23; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9

⁴⁴ Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:30-31; Romans 13:8-10

⁴⁵ John 3:16; 6:29; 1 John 3:23

⁴⁶ Psalm 51:5; 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:31, 34-36, 41-44

⁴⁷ Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:2; 1 Timothy 3:2

⁴⁸ Genesis 1:27-28; 4:1-2; 9:1; Ephesians 6:1-4

⁴⁹ Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 19:6-9

⁵⁰ Exodus 20:1-17; Leviticus 4:27-28; Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32; John 16:7-9; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4

⁵¹ Genesis 3:1-19; Romans 5:12, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

⁵² Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; 5:12-21; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Galatians 2:16-21

Salvation

We believe that salvation is a gift of God, received by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.⁵³ Salvation is motivated by the love of God demonstrated through His sovereign election in Christ,⁵⁴ purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross,⁵⁵ and received by faith apart from any human merit, works or ritual.⁵⁶ Regeneration is effected through the work of the Holy Spirit in God's elect.⁵⁷ All who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are forgiven of all their sins, justified in God's sight by the merit of Christ's righteousness,⁵⁸ adopted into His family, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and have equal access to God.⁵⁹ As a result, the progressive sanctifying work of salvation leads to a newness of life that is evidenced by righteous living, good works, and biblical social concern, or God's corrective discipline.⁶⁰ The consummation of salvation will be realized when those who have accepted God's gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ shall be resurrected and glorified.⁶¹ They shall receive their inheritance in the Kingdom of their Father, whom they shall see and enjoy throughout the ages.⁶²

The Church

We believe that the New Testament Church is composed of all persons who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit since the day of Pentecost following Christ's resurrection.⁶³ We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of Christ, of which He is the Head.⁶⁴ We believe that this body expresses itself in local assemblies in which believers are in a covenant relationship.⁶⁵ Biblically that relationship is expressed corporately through hearing the Word of God proclaimed, engaging in worship, practicing the two ordinances of believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper,⁶⁶ building up each other's faith,⁶⁷ holding each other accountable through biblical love and discipline,⁶⁸ and engaging in local and world evangelization.⁶⁹ Biblically designated leaders must meet the biblical qualifications for their role and submit to the headship of Christ, emulating His servant leadership.⁷⁰ We believe the role of elders is reserved for biblically qualified males.⁷¹ Each local church is to choose, support, and submit to those who serve as elders.⁷²

⁵³ John 3:1-21; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:21-28; 5:1-2; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-10

⁵⁴ John 3:16-18; 6:44; Acts 13:48; Romans 8:29-30; 11:5-6; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:8-9; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 1 John 4:10

⁵⁵ Matthew 26:28; Romans 3:21-26; Hebrews 9:11-14, 22; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7

⁵⁶ Romans 3:20; 4:4-5; 5:1-11; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 3:7-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:9

⁵⁷ John 1:13; 3:3, 5-8; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 2:13-14; Titus 3:4-7; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:1-2

⁵⁸ Acts 2:38; 3:19; 10:43; 13:39; Romans 1:15-17; 3:21-26; 5:1-11; 8:1; 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

⁵⁹ John 1:12-13; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 3:27-4:7; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 4:14-16

⁶⁰ Matthew 7:16-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:21; 7:1; Galatians 2:20; 5:16-25; Philippians 2:12-13; 3:12-16; Colossians 3:5-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Titus 2:11-14; 3:8; 2 Peter 1:3-8; 3:18; Acts 11:29; Hebrews 13:16; James 2:1-17; Deuteronomy 8:5; Hebrews 12:5-11

⁶¹ John 5:25-29; Romans 8:17; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:35-58; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Revelation 20:4-6; 21:1-4

⁶² Matthew 25:31-40; 1 Peter 1:3-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 22:1-5

⁶³ Acts 2; 5:11; 9:31; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27

⁶⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Colossians 1:18

⁶⁵ 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; 11:23-26; Galatians 1:1-3; Philippians 1:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1-2

⁶⁶ Acts 2:38, 41-42, 46-47; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:12, 35-39; Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

⁶⁷ 1 Corinthians 14:26; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25; Jude 20-21

⁶⁸ Matthew 18:15-35; Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 3:12-13

⁶⁹ Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8; Revelation 5:9-10

⁷⁰ Matthew 20:25-28; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Angels

We believe God created angels as spirit-beings possessing power and intellect, to worship and serve Him and to minister to believers.⁷³ God's holy angels will accompany Christ at His return.⁷⁴ God's holy angels fulfill powerful roles in God's judgments upon rebellious mankind.⁷⁵ Satan is a rebellious, fallen angel who masquerades as an angel of light.⁷⁶ By subjecting Adam and Eve to temptation and sin, Satan has extended his rebellion against God, which he continues by deceit, seduction, and destruction.⁷⁷ The scope of Satan's power is subject to God's will.⁷⁸ While Satan and his demons are powerful, they are subject to Christ's authority and judgment.⁷⁹ Satan and his demons have been defeated for eternity by Jesus Christ through His death on the cross and victorious resurrection, sealing their everlasting damnation.⁸⁰ At the time of final judgment, they will be consigned to eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire.⁸¹

Last Things

We believe in the imminent, visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His Millennial Kingdom.⁸² He will return with His saints from heaven with power and great glory, on a day known only to God.⁸³ We believe that believers in Jesus Christ, at the point of physical death, enter into God's eternal glory.⁸⁴ At the return of Christ, their bodies shall be resurrected and transformed to the likeness of His body of glory,⁸⁵ and they shall receive their inheritance of glory in the Kingdom of their Father.⁸⁶ They shall be made fully blessed in the presence and service of God, whom they shall see and enjoy throughout the ages.⁸⁷ We believe that all who die without faith in Jesus Christ have no more hope of redemption,⁸⁸ but in conscious suffering must await the final judgment.⁸⁹ They will be resurrected, separated from the righteous, judged, and cast into an existence of eternal punishment where they will be tormented day and night forever and ever when Death and Hades (the abode of the dead) are cast into the Lake of Fire.⁹⁰ We believe it is imperative for the Church to work and wait in sober watchfulness, that it may be found ready at Christ's return.⁹¹

⁷¹ Philippians 1:1 (*overseers* and *deacons* are masculine plural nouns); 1 Timothy 3:1-2; Titus 1:5-6; 1 Peter 5:1-3 (*elders* is a masculine plural noun)

⁷² Acts 6:2-6; 15:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17

⁷³ Colossians 1:15-17; Psalm 103:19-22; Psalm 148:1-6; Revelation 5:11-14; Matthew 4:8-11; 28:1-7; Luke 22:41-44; Hebrews 1:5-14; 1 Kings 19:5-7; Daniel 6; Acts 1:10-11; 5:17-21; 8:26; 10:1-8; 12:1-11

⁷⁴ Matthew 24:30-31; 25:31; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 19:11 – 20:3

⁷⁵ Revelation 7:1-3; 8:1-5-ff; 14:6-11; 15:1; 16:1; 18:1; 20:1-3

⁷⁶ Isaiah 14: 12-15; Ezekiel 28:13-19; Luke 10:18; 2 Corinthians 11:14; Revelation 12:7-9

⁷⁷ Genesis 3:1-15; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 22:1-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Thessalonians 2:18

⁷⁸ Job 1:6-12; Luke 10:17-20; Revelation 12:7-17

⁷⁹ Ephesians 1:19-21; 6:10-18; Philippians 2:9-11; James 4:7; 1 Peter 3:22; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 John 2:12-14; 5:18; Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10

⁸⁰ Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 1:13-14; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Romans 16:20; Ephesians 1:19-21; Colossians 2:15

⁸¹ Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10

⁸² Matthew 24:36-44; 25:1-13; Mark 13:32-37; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11; Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 20:1-6

⁸³ Matthew 24:29-36; 25:31; Mark 13:32-37; John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14

⁸⁴ John 10:28-30; Romans 8:38-39; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8; Philippians 1:19-23

⁸⁵ Job 19:25-27; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; John 5:21-29; Acts 24:14-15; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20-26, 35-57; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 3:2-3

⁸⁶ Matthew 25:31-34; John 14:1-3; Colossians 3:4; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 20:5-6; 21:1-8

⁸⁷ Psalm 16:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 22:3-5

⁸⁸ Hebrews 9:27

⁸⁹ Luke 16:19-26; Hebrews 9:27

⁹⁰ Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:25-29; Acts 24:14-15; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:11-15; 21:8

⁹¹ Matthew 24:42-44; 25:13; Mark 13:32-37; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 John 2:28 – 3:3