

Grace Chapel Statement of Faith¹

1 - The Bible

We believe that the Bible, consisting of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, was given by Divine inspiration and is the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; I Thess. 2:13).

That it constitutes the only perfect rule and final authority in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice (Acts 17:11; Isa. 8:20).

2 - The Godhead

We believe there is only one living and true God, the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3; Neh. 9:6; Heb. 1:2, 3; Psalm 103:19; Eph 1:11). perfect, infinite, and eternal (Matt. 5:48; I Kings 8:27; Psalm 90:2), and that He is unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, love and truth (Mal. 3:6; I Tim. 1:17; Gen 17:1; Isa. 6:3; Psalm 19:9; Ex. 34:6; John 3:16).

We believe God eternally exists in three Persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Who are equal in Their Divine perfection and harmonious in the execution of Their distinct offices (Matt. 28:19; John 5:17; John 14:16, 17; John 15:26; Eph 2:18).

3 – The Father

We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. He is Father to His eternal Son, Jesus Christ, whom He raised from the dead, by and for His glory (Matt. 11:25; Luke 10:21; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 1:3; Rom. 6:4; Phil. 2:9-11). He is also Father to all who are adopted as His sons and daughters through faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 4:5-6; Eph. 1:5). He has made himself known to us through His Son, through the Spirit and through the Scriptures, and has blessed us in Christ with every blessing of the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10; Eph. 1:3; 3:5; Heb. 1:1-3). He has sovereignty over us, affection toward us, and glory for us (1 Cor. 15:27-28; John 3:16; 2 Thess. 2:16; 1 John 3:1). To Him belong all glory and honor (1 Pet. 4:11; Gal. 1:5).

¹ The Statement of Faith, previously a separate document known as the Articles of Faith, was moved into the Constitution and Bylaws as a new Article on June 11, 2007

4 - The Son

We believe that, in the fullness of time, the eternally pre-existent Son humbled Himself and assumed human nature by being born of the Virgin Mary, thus uniting organically and indissolubly the Divine and human natures in their completeness in the unique Person of Jesus Christ (Isa. 9:6, Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:14; I Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:14).

We believe that God has provided redemption for humanity through the mediatorial work of Christ, Who voluntarily offered Himself on Calvary as a perfect sacrifice for sin, the just suffering for the unjust, bearing sin's curse, and tasting death for everyone (Matt. 20:28; Heb. 9:11, 12; I Pet. 3:18; Gal. 3:13; Heb. 2:9; I Tim. 2:5, 6).

We believe that on the third day He rose from the dead in the body, which had been laid in the tomb. He ascended into heaven where He reigns at the right hand of the Father, where He performs the ministry of intercession and from where He must reign until all things are in full submission to His Lordship. He shall come again, personally and visibly, to complete His saving work and to consummate the eternal plan of God.

5 - The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity and that He proceeds from the Father and the Son (John 15:26); His principal ministry, since His advent at Pentecost, is to reprove or convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8-11); to restrain the progress of evil until God's purposes are accomplished (2 Thess. 2:7); to bear witness to the truth preached (Acts 5:30-32); to regenerate those who repent of their sins and exercise faith in Christ (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5); to instruct, comfort and guide God's children (John 14:16-18,26; 16:13); to sanctify them (2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Peter 1:1-3); to empower them for life and service (Rom. 8:2; Acts 1:8; Eph. 3:16; 1 Cor. 2:1-4; 1 Thess. 1:5); and to give life to their mortal bodies (Rom. 8:11).

6 - Humanity

(a) Our Creation

We believe that human beings were created by a special act of God; that we were created in the image and likeness of God, possessing personality and innocence; that we were endowed with power of rational and responsible choice in view of moral ends; and that the purpose of his creation was to glorify God (Gen. 1:27; Col. 3:10; Acts 17:24-28).

(b) Our Fall

We believe Adam and Eve were subject to trial in the Garden of Eden in order to test their loyalty to their Maker (Gen 2:15-17). Under trial, they lost their holy estate, were alienated from God and became depraved physically, mentally, morally and spiritually, by voluntarily transgressing His positive command and yielding to the enticement of Satan. In consequence of the fact of disobedience, the entire human race became involved in guilt and in corruption so that in every heart there is, by nature, that evil disposition which eventually leads to irresponsible acts of sin and to just condemnation (Gen. 3:1-6; Rom. 5:12, 18; 3:10-12, 23; 1:19-31; Eph. 4:18; I John 1:8-10).

7 - Salvation

We believe that salvation is wholly of grace (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5); being planned by the Father, provided for by the blood of the Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:1-3; John 3:3-5). In justification the believer is absolved of his guilt and declared righteous in the sight of God (Rom. 5:1, 9; 4:4, 5; Acts 13:39). In adoption the believer is constituted a member of the household of God (Rom. 8). In regeneration the principle of a new life is implanted in his or her heart. (John 3:3; Titus 2:14). In sanctification the principle of the new life is strengthened and developed increasingly (Rom. 6:8). In glorification this work will come to its perfect culmination in an ultimate and complete renewal of human nature (1 Cor. 13: 1 John 5:11-13). Repentance and faith are essential attitudes to be found in any one person who rightly claims the blessing of salvation. They emphasize the fact that it is not through human merit of any kind but the grace of God that redemption is achieved.

8 - The Church

We believe that the church invisible and universal is an organism composed of the redeemed of all ages. We believe that the church is manifest locally and visibly through companies of believers in Christ, voluntarily joined together and meeting at stated times for worship, to observe the ordinances (Acts 2:46, 47; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 6:1-6; 14:23); that it is the duty of the church to give the Gospel as a witness to all people (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8), to build itself up in the most holy faith (Jude 20, 21; Eph. 4:11-12, 16; Acts 20:32), and to glorify God (1 Peter 4:11).

9 - Ordinances

We believe that Christian ordinances are outward rites appointed by Christ, not as a means of salvation, but as visible signs and seals of the facts and realities of salvation.

(a) Baptism

We believe that baptism by water is the public confession of Christ as Savior and Lord. It is a symbol of one's union, by faith, with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection, and, therefore, is to be administered to those who have given evidence of faith in Christ as their personal Savior (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36-39).

(b) The Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper should be observed by all believers in obedience to the command: "This do in remembrance of Me." It consists in partaking of the consecrated emblems of bread and wine; and symbolizes the death of Christ for the remission of our sins and our continual dependence upon Him for our sustenance. It witnesses that mystical union of the believer with Christ (John 15). The union of believers around the Lord's table should be open to all who are in right relationship one with another, and with the Lord, (Matt. 26: 26-30; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 10; 11:23-26).

10 - Last Things

We believe that at the end of the age, Christ will descend from Heaven, the dead shall be raised bodily, that they shall be judged by God, and that those redeemed will enter into full possession of eternal bliss in the presence of God, and the wicked shall be condemned to eternal death. (1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Cor. 7:29-32; Heb. 1:10-12; Acts 1:11; Acts 24:15; Matt. 25:31-46).