

## Statement of Faith

### 1. Scriptures (The Holy Bible)

We believe the Holy Bible is the written Word of God, given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is infallible and inerrant in the original manuscripts, fully preserved and wholly trustworthy. Scripture is the sole and final authority for faith, doctrine, and life, and is sufficient for all things that pertain to life and godliness.

Key Scriptures (ESV): 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21; Psalm 19:7–11.

### 2. God

We believe in one living and true God, the LORD (Jehovah), the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God is infinite, eternal, self-existent, omnipotent, omniscient, and present to act anywhere yet separate from sin. He is holy, just, loving, merciful, gracious, and sovereign. God does not change in His nature or character, desires all people to come to repentance, and is personally involved with His creation while remaining independent of it.

Key Scriptures (ESV): Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 90:2; Malachi 3:6.

### 3. The Trinity

We believe that the one true God exists eternally as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is one in being and three in personal distinction, without division of essence or confusion of persons. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are co-equal and co-eternal, fully and truly God.

Key Scriptures (ESV): Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16–17.

### 4. Creation

We believe that God created the heavens and the earth in six literal, twenty-four-hour days, and that the earth is young, created in recent history. God created Adam and Eve directly, in His image, as the first human beings, and all humanity descends from them. We reject all forms of macro-evolution and affirm that while there is variation within created kinds, life does not evolve from lower forms. God created all things good, for His glory, and made man for relationship with Himself and stewardship over creation.

Key Scriptures (ESV): Genesis 1–2; Exodus 20:11; Colossians 1:16–17.

**Grace Baptist Church**  
**Statement of Faith (cont.)**

**5. Man, the Fall, and Sin**

We believe that man was created in innocence and in the image of God, but that Adam willfully sinned against God, bringing sin and death into the world. Through Adam, a sinful nature has been passed to all mankind, and all are sinners by nature and by choice. Man is spiritually dead and separated from God, yet still able to respond when God graciously draws him through creation, conscience, and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Every person has a missing fellowship that can only be restored by God, and all are personally accountable for their sin.

Key Scriptures (ESV): Genesis 1:26–27; Genesis 3; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12–19.

**6. Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh, the eternal Son of God who took on human likeness without sin. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and perfectly obeyed the Father. He willingly died on the cross as the innocent in the place of the guilty, satisfying God's justice on behalf of sinners. He rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and now serves as our High Priest and only Mediator at the right hand of God.

Key Scriptures (ESV): John 1:1–14; Philippians 2:5–11; Hebrews 4:14–16; 1 Timothy 2:5.

**7. Atonement and Salvation**

We believe that on the cross Jesus Christ bore the penalty of our sin as our substitute, fully satisfying the righteous demands of God's law. His atoning death is sufficient for all people and provides the payment for sin, but this reconciliation is applied personally only to those who repent and believe. Christ died for all, and God sincerely offers salvation to everyone. Salvation is by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, not by works, rituals, or church membership. In salvation God justifies, reconciles, and adopts the believer into His family.

Key Scriptures (ESV): Isaiah 53:4–6; Romans 3:23–26; Romans 5:6–11; Ephesians 2:8–9.

**8. The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, draws all people to the truth, and regenerates those who believe. He indwells every believer at salvation, sealing them until the day of redemption, and works in them to produce holiness and spiritual fruit. The Spirit gives spiritual gifts to each believer for the good of the church as God allows, and every gift must operate in full agreement with Scripture and for the glory of God.

Key Scriptures (ESV): John 16:7–11; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:13–14; Galatians 5:22–23; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7.

**Grace Baptist Church**  
**Statement of Faith (cont.)**

**9. Repentance and Faith**

We believe that salvation is received through repentance and faith. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin to God, a change of mind and heart that results in a change of direction. Faith is trusting God's promise of redemption through Christ and relying entirely on His finished work, not on ourselves. Faith is personal dependence on Christ, not mere agreement with facts, and is the means by which salvation is applied to the individual. God graciously draws all people, but each person must personally respond; no one is saved apart from personal faith in Christ.

Key Scriptures (ESV): Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; Romans 10:9–13; John 3:16–18.

**10. God's Purpose of Grace**

We believe that God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. God in His grace reveals Himself through creation, conscience, and the Holy Spirit, giving every person the opportunity to respond before judgment. Grace does not force belief; God draws, convicts, and calls, yet man must choose. We are predestined in Christ in the sense that God appointed Jesus as the only way of salvation and determined that all who are in Christ would be conformed to His image. God's grace is offered to all and received by faith, and never contradicts the free and sincere offer of the gospel.

Key Scriptures (ESV): 1 Timothy 2:3–6; Titus 2:11; John 12:32; Romans 8:29.

**11. Sanctification**

We believe that sanctification begins at salvation and continues throughout the believer's life. Through obedience to God's Word and the help of the Holy Spirit, believers grow in holiness and maturity. Sanctification is the cooperative work of God's Spirit and the believer's obedience; as believers walk in obedience, they grow. God disciplines His children when they stray, and calls every believer to live a life that reflects His character. We reject perfectionism, charismatic "victory" doctrines, legalism, and any teaching that dismisses the necessity of holy living.

Key Scriptures (ESV): John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 12:5–11; 2 Peter 3:18.

**12. Security of the Believer**

We believe that those who are truly saved are saved forever. Eternal life begins at the moment of faith and cannot be lost, surrendered, or taken away. Believers are kept by the power of God and sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption. Believers should persevere in obedience, though not all do so consistently. A believer may fall into sin, but remains God's child and will experience His loving discipline. Assurance rests on God's promise, not human performance, and doubt does not mean a loss of salvation.

Key Scriptures (ESV): John 10:27–29; Romans 8:35–39; Ephesians 1:13–14; 1 John 5:11–13.

**Grace Baptist Church**  
**Statement of Faith (cont.)**

**13. Law and Gospel**

We believe that the Old and New Testaments agree perfectly and reveal one unified plan of God. The Law and the Gospel work together in God's purpose: the Law reveals sin and our need of a Savior, while the Gospel reveals God's grace and provision in Christ. Salvation has always been by grace through faith, and there has never been more than one way to be saved. Christ fulfilled the Law, and while Christians are not under the Law for salvation, the moral principles of the Law still reveal God's character and serve as a guide to righteousness.

Key Scriptures (ESV): Matthew 5:17; Romans 3:19–22; Galatians 3:24; Hebrews 10:1.

**14. The Church**

We believe that the church is a local assembly of baptized believers, redeemed by Christ and called out for God's glory. Christ alone is the Head of the church, and Scripture is its sole authority for doctrine and practice. The church exists to glorify God through obedience and worship, to proclaim the gospel, to fulfill the Great Commission, and to build up believers in love and truth. The church is self-governing under Christ and practices baptism and the Lord's Supper as ordinances commanded by Christ, and affirms the sacred covenant of marriage between one man and one woman as instituted by God.

Key Scriptures (ESV): Matthew 16:18; Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:42–47; 1 Timothy 3:15.

**15. Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Marriage**

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances commanded by Christ and given to the church. Baptism is by immersion and is administered only to those who have believed the gospel. It symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and identifies the believer with Him and His church; it does not save, but is an act of obedience. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of the death of Christ, observed by believers in self-examination, using bread and the cup as symbols of His body and blood, until He comes. We practice open communion for believers in right fellowship with the Lord. We also affirm marriage as a sacred covenant created by God between one man and one woman, intended for believers, reflecting Christ and the church, and lasting until death.

Key Scriptures (ESV): Romans 6:3–4; 1 Corinthians 11:23–29; Ephesians 5:22–33; Genesis 2:24.

**Grace Baptist Church**  
**Statement of Faith (cont.)**

**16. The Righteous and the Wicked**

We believe that God distinguishes sharply between the righteous and the wicked. The righteous are those who have been saved through faith in Christ, receiving His righteousness by faith and not by works. They are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and called to live holy and obedient lives, distinct from the world. The wicked are those who remain in unbelief, living according to the flesh and separated from God. They remain under God's wrath until they repent, even if outwardly moral. God's people are called to stand with Him when the world calls evil good and good evil, and to shine as lights in the darkness.

Key Scriptures (ESV): Psalm 1; John 3:18; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:8–11.

**17. The World to Come**

We believe that Heaven and Hell are literal, eternal realities. Heaven is a real place prepared by God, the eternal home of all who are saved, where believers will dwell in God's presence forever in joy, worship, and holiness, with no sin, sorrow, or pain. Hell is a real place of eternal punishment, darkness, torment, and separation from God for all who reject His salvation in Christ. There will be a bodily resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked, and Jesus Christ will judge all people in perfect righteousness. The saved will enter eternal life, and the lost eternal punishment. Christ will return visibly, establish His eternal kingdom, and God will create a new heaven and a new earth where He will dwell with His people forever.

Key Scriptures (ESV): John 14:1–3; Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:31–46; Revelation 20:11–15; Revelation 21:1–4.