

APPENDIX A

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 1 - We believe there is one God over all, the same yesterday, today, and forever; the Creator of all things, and in Whom all things consist (Deut. 6:4; Heb. 11:3).

SECTION 2 - We believe there is one Savior, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, Who is the Supreme Head of the Church, which is redeemed unto God by His own blood. He was born of the virgin Mary, died for the sins of mankind on the cross, was buried, and on the third day rose again. He is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God in heaven from whence He is coming again to receive the Church as His bride (Matt. 3:16,17).

SECTION 3 - We believe that there is one Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, Who came from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; to regenerate the believing sinner; and to indwell, guide, instruct, cleanse, and empower the believer for godly living and service. The Holy Spirit is now the Representative of the Godhead on earth and the Superintendent of the Church (John 14:16,17; 15:26). God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three persons, united and inseparable, of one substance and eternal (Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14).

SECTION 4 - We emphatically affirm the Divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, infallibly and inherently true as originally inspired, constituting our only divinely authorized rule of faith and practice (II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:21).

SECTION 5 - We believe man was created by the direct act of God and was made in the image and likeness of God, but through transgression fell and became depraved in nature and sinful in conduct. In his natural state, man is sinful, apart from saving grace, and consequently is in need of salvation (Gen. 6:5; Ps. 14:2,3; Matt. 15:19; Rom. 3:9-23).

SECTION 6 - We believe the Scriptures declare the necessity of repentance, implying a previous conviction of sin, followed by a sorrow of heart, and immediate abandonment of known sin, together with a suitable confession to God and man, and prompt and honest restitution of all that is due to others, according to one's ability; and all such gracious states and experience, constituting scriptural repentance must be inwrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit (Isa. 55:6,7; Ezek. 33:15; Matt. 9:13; Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30,31; II Cor. 7:10,11).

SECTION 7 - 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; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

SECTION 8 - We believe justification is a legal act on the part of God, including the forgiveness of sins and the imputation of righteousness, through faith in the Lord

Jesus Christ (Ps. 130:4; Jer. 36:3; Acts 13:38,39; Rom. 5:1; I John 3:7; Rev. 19:8).

SECTION 9 - We believe regeneration is the quickening of the sinner to spiritual life by the Holy Spirit which gracious act accompanies justification (Isa. 55:3; John 3:3,5; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13; Titus 3:5).

SECTION 10 - We believe Entire Sanctification is the purifying of the believer's heart by faith and the enduement of power by the Holy Spirit whereby he is enabled to love God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength, and his neighbor as himself (Lev. 11:44,45; Luke 1:73-75; John 17:17; I Thess. 5:23-24; Heb. 10:14-15, Heb. 13:12). The work of entire sanctification is witnessed to directly by the Holy Spirit, and indirectly by a holy, godly life, and not by any special manifestations or gifts, such as speaking in unknown tongues.

SECTION 11 - We believe the New Testament teaches that there is one true Church, which is made up of those who have been born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who willingly submit themselves to God's divine order through the ministry of God - called pastors and leaders (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:18; I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5).

We believe in the autonomy of the local church, free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1; I Cor. 3:9,16; 5:4-7, 13; I Pet. 5:1-4).

SECTION 12 - We believe the second coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is imminent and visible. The children of God are admonished to look for the personal coming of Christ with confident hope, and with the assurance that at His appearing they will become the happy partakers of His glory in the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world (Dan. 7:13,14; Matt. 24:30,31; Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:15-17; Rev. 22:20).

SECTION 13 - We believe the Scriptures affirm the resurrection of the body, the judgment of all mankind, the everlasting punishment of the wicked, and the eternal blessedness of the righteous (Ps. 9:17; Matt. 24:46; John 5:28,29; 14:1-3; Rom. 14:10; I Cor. 15:52-55; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12,13; 21:8).

SECTION 14 - We believe the Bible teaches Divine healing and we encourage the prayer of faith for the healing of the sick (James 5:14-16; Luke 9:2; 10:9; and Acts 4:10,14).

SECTION 15 - We believe water baptism is an outward testimony of the saving work of grace wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit and is the privilege and responsibility of all new believers (1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3-4).

SECTION 16 - We believe the Lord's Supper represents our redemption through Christ's death and is a means through which God gives grace to the heart when received in faith. This ordinance should be reverently and frequently observed (Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29).

SECTION 17 - We believe that all who are saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon the Lord Jesus Christ and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; II Cor. 6:14-7:1; II Tim 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11).

SECTION 18 -We believe the Genesis account of creation and reject evolution as an unscriptural theory of origin (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11).

SECTION 19 -We believe that God has ordained three basic institutions of authority; (1) the home; (2) the Church; and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the Church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 2:13-14).

SECTION 20 -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 Bible Church.

SECTION 21 -We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

SECTION 22 -We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 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.

SECTION 23 -We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 6:9-10; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

SECTION 24 -We believe that God's plan is that the marriage relationship be permanent and that the Bible permits divorce and remarriage only on the basis of immorality. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3). It is not in keeping with God's Word for a saved person to marry an unsaved person (II Cor. 6:14-18).

SECTION 25 -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. The unborn child is a living human being and abortion constitutes the unjustified taking of human life. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Ps. 139; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

SECTION 26 -We believe that God has given the Church a Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to take the Gospel to all people everywhere. (Matt. 29:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:20).

SECTION 27 -We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We do believe; however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).

SECTION 28 -We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of material wealth entrusted to him by God, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings for the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a person relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:17-18; I John 3:17).

SECTION 29 -We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Grace Bible Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Grace Bible Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed Grace Bible Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement of Faith (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.).

SECTION 30 -The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Grace Bible Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the GBC Lead Pastor in consultation with the GBC Church Board is Grace Bible Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.