

# Core Beliefs

## 1 | We believe the **Holy Bible**

We believe the Holy Bible, consisting of all the books of the Old and New Testaments is the divinely inspired Word of God. It is the revelation of God's will and plan for mankind, and is without error or misstatement in its moral and spiritual teachings and in its recording of historical and scientific facts. The Bible was originally given to man by God through plenary, verbal inspiration, without error or defect of any kind. God has ordained the Bible to be our final authority in questions relating to our faith, our teaching, and our conduct. (Psalms 119.89 & 160; Proverbs 30.5; Isaiah 40.8; 2 Timothy 3.16 and 2 Peter 1.21)

## 2 | We believe in **one God**

We believe in one God, who is the creator, governor, and sustainer of all things. We believe He is the infinite and perfect Spirit in whom we live and move and have our being. We believe God is rational, personal and eternal in His being. He exists in the form of a perfect unity revealed to us in the Bible as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We see and understand the character of God through the revelation of Scripture. Thus, we know God is omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, righteous, just, benevolent and kind. We also know through the revelation of Scripture that He is filled with love, truth, grace, and mercy. In all these things, He is immutable. (Genesis 1.1; John 4.24, John 5.26; Isaiah 45.5; Hebrews 6.17; Genesis 21.33; Psalms 90.2, Psalms 139.7-12; Romans 10.6-8; Jeremiah 23.23-25; Psalms 147.5; Job 42.2; Jeremiah 32.17 & 27; James 1.17; Malachi 3.6; Leviticus 11.44; 1 Peter 1.15; Psalms 89.14; Mark 10.18; 1 John 4.8 & 16; Psalms 145.9; Matthew 5.45; Ephesians 2.4; James 5.11; Titus 2.11; 1 Peter 5.10; 1 John 5.20 and Romans 3.4)

## 3 | We believe **Jesus Christ** is our Lord and Savior

We believe Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and the long-awaited Messiah of Israel. We believe the Scriptures teach that Jesus eternally co-existed with God, the Father, and God, the Holy Spirit as the second Person of the Trinity. In the fullness of time, He was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. Upon His birth, our Lord became a

perfect man, yet, at the same time, He was perfect God. He was, in fact, God incarnate. Thus, He possesses all the attributes of God. We believe Jesus was sinless by nature and completely free of sin in His thoughts, His words, and His deeds throughout His life here on earth. He died for our sins on a Roman cross and then, physically rose from the dead on the third day after His crucifixion. After being seen by a multitude of witnesses, Jesus ascended back up into heaven where He now sits at the right hand of God, ever making intercession for us. We believe Jesus now awaits that time when He shall return to catch us up to be with Himself forevermore. (Isaiah 7.14; Matthew 1.20; Luke 1.34 & 35; John 3.16; John 1.1, 12, 14, John 14.9; Isaiah 9.5 & 6; Titus 2.13; Hebrews 1.8; Acts 20.28; 1 Corinthians 1.30; Hebrews 7.25; Acts 4.12 and Hebrews 10.37)

#### 4 | We believe the **Holy Spirit**

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. He is a personal being and He possesses all the divine attributes of God. The Holy Spirit's primary responsibilities today are to convict the world of sin, to be a comforter to the children of God, to help us pray, to lead us into all truth, and to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. His work in the life of each individual believer consists of: baptizing the believer into the body of Christ and indwelling the believer at the moment of regeneration, filling the believer on a daily basis as the believer yields his or her heart and mind to Christ, and empowering the believer for a Christian walk and service. (John 15.7-15; Acts 5.3; 1 Corinthians 12.13; Romans 8.9; Ephesians 5.18, 3.16; Acts 1.8; Galatians 5.22 & 23; John 3.5; Titus 3.5; 2 Thessalonians 2.13 and Matthew 28.19).

#### 5 | We believe man was created in the **image of God**

We believe man was created in the image of God according to the Genesis account of creation. We believe all mankind fell in the fall of Adam and, thereby, incurred not only physical death but spiritual death as well. Since the fall of Adam, all human beings (with the exception of our Lord Jesus Christ) have been born with a sin nature. This nature reveals itself in the thoughts, the words and the deeds of mankind. Thus, all men are lost and alienated from God until they are born again by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. (Genesis 1.26 & 27, 3.1-8; 1 Timothy 2.13 & 14; Romans 5.12-19; 3.23; 6.23, 10.9 & 10; 1 Corinthians 15.21 & 22; Psalms 51.5 and Titus 3.3 & 4).

#### 6 | We believe the **blood of Christ**

We believe the blood of Christ shed at Calvary is the only antidote for sin. We believe our Lord Jesus Christ laid down His life on the cross as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. We believe it is by God's grace alone that man receives and

accepts God's free gift of salvation. Good works cannot and do not play any part in God's great plan of salvation. This great gift is freely given to us by God and can only be accepted by faith in the substitutionary death, burial and physical resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe those who steadfastly refuse to accept Christ's provision for the penalty of their sin are destined to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire commonly known as Hell. They will be raised from the dead at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ, judged at the Great White Throne Judgment, and cast into the Lake of Fire. They will exist there in a state of conscious, unutterable torment throughout eternity without any chance of ever being redeemed.

We believe those who accept God's free gift of salvation become the children of God. Their sins are forgiven and they receive eternal life, becoming heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. At the return of Christ for His church, they will be physically raised from the grave (if they have died) or, if they are still alive, they will be caught up in the air, and transformed into the likeness of Christ in His glorified body. We believe once a person has been saved, he or she is eternally secure in Christ, so he or she cannot and will not ever be lost. (Luke 22.20; Acts 4.12; Galatians 2.16; Ephesians 2.8 & 9, 1.7; John 14.6; Romans 3.24, 25, 5.9; Hebrews 9.12-14; 1 John 1.7) On the subject of eternal punishment: Matthew 25.30-46, 13:30-50; Mark 9.48; Luke 16.22-28; 2 Thessalonians 1.9 and Revelation 14.10, 11, 20.11-15, 21.8. On the position of the believer: Romans 8.1-3, 16.2, 8:29, 30, 35, 38, 39; 11.29; 2 Corinthians 5.15; Galatians 3.26; 1 Corinthians 15.35-55; 1 Thessalonians 4.16-18; John 10.27-30; Philippians 1.6 and 1 Peter 1.5.

## 7 | We believe in one true, universal and invisible **church**

We believe in one true, universal and invisible church. This church is called the body and bride of Christ in the Scriptures. It is made up of all true believers in this present age. We believe the local church is the local expression of the universal church. It is a voluntary association of baptized believers who are equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God. We believe that while a local church may enter into fellowship with other believers through Associations, Fellowships or Conventions, it still remains independent of all external ecclesiastical control whatsoever. (1 Peter 1.3, 22-25; 1 Corinthians 12.13; Ephesians 5.26 & 27; 1.22 & 23; Colossians 1.18; 2 Corinthians 11.2 & 3; Hebrews 12.23; Revelation 19.7. The local church: Acts 8.1; 13.1; 1 Corinthians 1.2; Galatians 1.2; Colossians 4.16; Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43.)

## 8 | We believe the Scriptures clearly command every believer to be **baptized by immersion**

We believe the Scriptures clearly command every believer to be baptized by immersion in water. Although baptism has no saving merit, it does show forth in solemn and beautiful symbolism the believer's faith in and union with the crucified, buried and risen Savior. (Matthew 28.19 & 20; Mark 16.16; Romans 6.3 & 4; Acts 2.38; 8.12, 13, 36, 38; 9.18; 10.47 & 48; 16.15 & 33; 18.8; 19.5 and Colossians 2.12)

## 9 | We believe Christ gave us **"The Lord's Supper"** as an ordinance to symbolize His broken body and shed blood for our sins

We believe Christ gave us "The Lord's Supper" as an ordinance to symbolize His broken body and shed blood for our sins. We believe the celebration of Communion by the bread and the cup should be limited to only those who have placed their trust in Christ as their personal Savior, and then, only after careful self-examination. (Matthew 26.26-30; Mark 14.22-26; Luke 22.17-20 and 1 Corinthians 11.23-31)

## 10 | We believe the Christian life should be **a life of righteousness**

We believe the Christian life should be a life of righteousness, good works, and separation unto God from the evil ways of the world, manifested by speaking the truth in love, maintaining the sanctity of the home, settling differences between Christians in accordance to the Word of God, not engaging in carnal strife, but showing a Christ-like attitude toward all men, exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit, and maintaining a life of prayer, including the privilege, when sick, of calling for the elders of the church to pray and to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord. (Ephesians 2.10; 4.15, 22, 24, 26, 32; Galatians 5.22, 23-25; Philippians 2.15, 4.6, 8; 2 Timothy 2.19 & 22; 1 Peter 2.5, 9; 4.1 & 2; 1 John 2.6 & 15; 3.2 & 3; 4.7; 1 Corinthians 6.1-8, 2 Corinthians 6.17; James 5.14 & 15; 1 Thessalonians 5.17 & 18 and Colossians 3.1 & 2, 12-17).

## 11 | We believe in the **existence of Satan**

We believe in the existence of Satan. We believe the Scriptures clearly teach that he is a created being who willfully fell from the love and grace of God. He is now the great

adversary of God, of the nation of Israel, and of the children of God. The Bible teaches that he will one day be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire (Hell) where he will be kept for eternity. (Genesis 3.1-15; 1 Chronicles 21.1; Job 1.6-12; 2.1-7; Zechariah 3.1 & 2; Matthew 4.1-11; Luke 10.18 & 19; John 13.2 & 27; 1 Peter 5.8 and Revelation 12.1-4, 20.1-3, 7-10)

## 12 | **Future Things**

We believe in the personal, physical, visible, and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe the Scriptures teach that He will return with the angels of glory to gather those who have placed their trust in Him from the four corners of the earth. We believe the world will experience seven years of tribulation prior to the Second Coming of Christ. When Grace Community Church Revised: Content 2011, Cover 2015 5 Christ returns, He will establish His rule upon this earth for one thousand years, sitting upon the throne of David in Jerusalem. During this time, Satan will be held captive in the Great Abyss spoken of in Revelation 20.1-3.

We believe our Lord's reign of peace upon this earth will be ended when Satan is released from the Great Abyss and leads mankind in one last rebellion against God and His Kingdom. This rebellion will be quickly put down and the Great White Throne Judgment will be established. Satan, his angels, demons and the lost of all ages will be judged before this throne and cast into the eternal Lake of Fire. Following the Great White Throne Judgment, God will create a new heaven and new earth to be enjoyed by all His saints for eternity. (Matthew 24.27 & 36, Acts 1.7-10, Titus 2.13, 1 Corinthians 15.50-55, 1 Thessalonians 4.16-18. The Tribulation: Zephaniah 1.14-18; Jeremiah 30.4-7; Matthew 24.21-29; Luke 21.34-36; 2 Thessalonians 2.7-12; Revelation chapters 6-18. The Millennial Reign of Christ: Psalms chapter 2, 2 Samuel 7.8- 17; Psalms 89.3 & 4, 20-37; Jeremiah 33.19-26; Luke 1.31-33; Isaiah 9.6 & 7; 11.1-9; Zechariah 8.22 & 23; 9.10. The Great Abyss: Revelation 20.1-10. The Great White Throne Judgment: Revelation 20.11-15. The New Heaven and New Earth: Revelation 21.1-22.5).

*The preceding beliefs are taken from Article II of the Grace Community Church constitution. These are the unaltering beliefs of the church and cannot be changed in any way. This Document was Created in June 2019.*