

Grace Baptist Church Articles of Faith

1. We believe in the equality and distinct personality of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, in the Oneness of the Godhead. (Dan. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 14:10, 26; Rom. 15:16, 30; 2 Cor. 13:14).
2. We believe in the Deity, Sovereignty, Virgin Birth and the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We also believe the next event to be fulfilled in Scripture is the Rapture of the Church, followed by seven years of tribulation and then the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (John: 1:1, 14, 17).
3. We believe that the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, is the divine, inspired, infallible Word of God, complete in 66 Books, and that it is our only authority in matters of faith and practice. (Matt. 24:35; Luke 24:27; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Rev. 22:18).
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God and that man fell from his state of righteousness in the fall of Adam as universal head of the human race. As a result of the fall, all men are sinners by nature and are under the just condemnation of God. (Gen. 3:1-20, 6:5-8; Rom. 3:10-20; 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:22; Eph. 2:1-3).
5. We believe in the necessity of the new birth through the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ by his sacrifice, making the new birth a free gift of God. (Rom. 3:23-25, 5:8; Eph. 1:7, 2:8; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).
6. We believe in the special and complete redemption of all the family of God, through the blood of Christ by virtue of his vicarious suffering and sacrificial death on the cross. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; 1Pet. 1:4-5; 18-19).
7. We believe that sanctification by the direct agency of the Holy Spirit is both instantaneous and progressive. (1 Cor. 1:30; 12:13, 13:4-13; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 6:10-18).
8. We believe in the justification of the ungodly by grace through the imputed righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ which is unto all them that believe. (Act 13:38-39; Rom. 3:24-26, 5:1, 9).
9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead and the judgment of all mankind, the wicked driven away into their punishment, but the righteous received into life eternal. (John 5:28-29; Act 17:31, 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; Heb. 8:27-28).
10. We believe in the absolute necessity of living a holy life in conformity to the life of Christ as the result of faith, and the evidence of the new birth. (Rom. 8:4-17; 1 Cor. 15:58; James 1:21-22).
11. We believe that the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ given to his disciples makes it necessary on the part of each believer to see that the gospel goes forth to all the world and to

every creature until the Lord Jesus Christ returns for his saints. Each believer's responsibility is to go, give, and pray. (Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Cor. 9:7; 2 Thess. 3:1-5; Phil. 4:16-17).

12. We believe in the observance of the only two ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

(A) Christian Baptism is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, and consists of the immersion of a believer in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 3:13-17, 28:19; Acts 8:38).

(B) The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ and is to be observed by all believers upon examination of their own life in the sight of God. (Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Acts 20:7) 1 Cor. 11:23-34).

13. We believe that this Church is fully independent of any associations, council, or any other church but depends on its existence through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God alone. The order of its government is congregational, wherein all its members have an equal voice and authority, except as noted here-in after. (Eph. 1:22, 5:19-21; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:9).

14. We believe in the observance of the first day of the week as the Lord's Day. When possible, it should be observed by abstaining from secular employment and occupied in the public and private worship of God and in works of necessity and mercy. (Matt. 28:1-9; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2).

15. We believe that God has ordained and created all authority, consisting of three basic institutions: A) the home; B) the church; and C) 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 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 sphere of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).

16. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between one man and one woman, and that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; 19:5, 113; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

17. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage (and the only form of marriage that is recognized by Grace Baptist Church) is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).

18. Although man and woman are spiritually equal in position before God, we believe that God has ordained distinct and separate functions for men and women in both the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and

deacons) of the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12).

19. We believe that God intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies, and that divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and/or divorced and remarried persons may hold positions of Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2,12; Titus 1:6).

20. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being, and that abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortion of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defect, gender selection, , birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

21. We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of intention. We believe that life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception to natural death. (Ex. 20:13; 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28).

22. We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church. God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but every Christian should cheerfully give tithes and offerings as God has prospered him. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).

23. 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 go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).

24. This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. However, we do believe the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible as presented in the King James Version and, therefore, is binding upon all members.