

Doctrinal Statement: Greater Grace Church

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament have been given by the verbal plenary inspiration of God and therefore are inerrant (Psalm 19:7-13; 119:89, 105). They are designed to lead us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. They are fully inspired by God and, therefore serve as the authoritative guide for Christian understanding, life, and ministry (2 Timothy 3: 15-17). The Scripture are not to be added to, superseded, or changed by tradition or any supposed later revelation (Isaiah 8:20; Galatians 1:8-9). Every doctrinal formulation, whether creed, confession, or theology, must be put to the test of the full counsel of God in the Holy Scriptures (Matthew 22:29-33; Ephesians 2:20; Acts 28:23). All redemptive understanding of the Scripture depends upon the illumination of the Holy Spirit; therefore, the most accurate factual knowledge attained through exegesis and interpretation does not bring about conversion or spiritual comprehension without the Holy Spirit creating an understanding through the Word and applying the message to the Heart (1 Corinthians 2:7-16)

God is Triune. There is but One God, infinite, eternal, almighty and perfect in holiness, truth and love (Gen. 17:1; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6-8; 57:15; Psalm 145:3; Cor. 8:4, 6; 1 John 4:8). In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons; the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, who are co-existent, co-equal, co-eternal (Matt. 3:16-17, 28:19; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14). The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Spirit, yet each is true deity. One God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit- is the foundation of Christian faith and life (John 14:23, 25; 15:26; 16:13-15)

God is the Creator of heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3; Psalm 33:9). By His Word, all things were made. And through the same Word, He daily sustains all of His Creation (John 1:3, 10; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:2-3; Psalm 147:13; Romans 8:28; John 3:16). He made man for fellowship with Himself and intended that all creation should live to the praise of His glory (Rom. 11:36; Rev. 4:11). As Creator, this Triune God created the universe apart from any pre-

existing materials and without any evolutionary process. We believe in the historicity of the first eleven chapters of Genesis

Man was created male and female, in the image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Through the original sin of man (by Adam and Eve), mankind has fallen from God and has become corrupt in his whole nature. By himself, man is totally incapable of returning to God (Rom. 5:12, 16-17; Jer. 17:9; Eph. 2:1-3; John 6:44). Fallen, sinful humanity, whatever its character or attainments, is eternally lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ (John 3:3-7; Acts 4:12)

Jesus Christ the Son is fully God and fully man; the only Savior from the sins of the World (John 1:1, 20:28; Col. 1:19; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 2:14-18). He was the Word made flesh; supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; and was perfect in nature, teaching and obedience (John 1:14; Matt. 1:18, 22-23; Luke 1:35; John 8:29; Heb. 5:8). He shed His blood on the cross as the vicarious atonement for the sins for all mankind. He rose from the dead in His own glorified body, ascended into heaven, and will return in glory (John 19:33-37; Rom. 4:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:2; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:16-17). He is the head of the Body the Church, and Victor over all powers of darkness. He reigns at the right hand of God the Father (Col 1:8, 2:15; Heb. 1:3-4)

Salvation, the gift is provided solely by His grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 5:1; Acts 16:31) and in His literal, shed blood (Rom. 3:25; Heb. 9:12, 10:19; Rev. 1:5). Recognizing his (man's) need for a Savior and looking to Christ and His vicarious atonement for sin, man is born anew unto eternal life by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; Titus 3:4-7; Acts 3:19-21). There is no other name except Jesus Christ by which man may be saved (Acts 4:12). Through His great redemptive act, there is forgiveness of sin, liberation from bondage to

the world, and freedom in His Spirit (Eph. 1:17; Gal. 6:14-15)

The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; unites man to Jesus Christ in Faith; brings about the new birth; and dwells within the regenerate, producing in them the fruit of the Holy Spirit, thus enabling them to grow in the experience of sanctification (John 15:8-10; 1 Cor. 12:13; John 3:5; 1 Cor. 6:19; Romans 8:9-11; Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Cor. 3:17-18). The Holy Spirit inspired prophets, judges and kings in ancient times; anointed Jesus Christ for His ministry, filled the church with power on the day of Pentecost, and will transform the mortal bodies of the believers into one like Jesus in the glory of the resurrection (1 Pet. 1:2, 10,12; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Luke 4:1, 18-21; Acts 2:4, 4:31; Rom. 8:11; Phil 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 John 3:2). The Holy Spirit is imparted to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as Savior (Acts 2:38-39; Luke 11:13). The promise of the Father that the Holy Spirit would be sent in power was not only made to the early disciples, but continues through generations to come. The gift of the Holy Spirit is God's sovereign action for edifying the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:7-11, 28-31; 14:1, 13; Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Pet. 5:10-11). The gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor/teacher were given by the Lord Jesus Christ for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit directed gifts to the Body of Christ. They are the direct result of the Lord Jesus Christ's promise of the Holy Spirit to guide all believers into the truth (Eph. 4:7-16; Luke 11:28; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13)

The Church, which is the Body and future Bride of Christ, is dedicated to the worship and service

of God, the observance of the sacraments/ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's supper, as well as the practice of good works (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 2:22; 5:23, 26, 27; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9-10; Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:14). The primary task of the Church in all ages is to teach all nations and to make disciples, bringing the Gospel into every aspect of life and thought. Ultimate mission of the Church is the redemption of souls, through the obedience of the great commission (Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Cor. 10:4-5)

Satan, we believe, was created a perfect angelic being (Ezekiel 28:15). He rebelled against God (Ez. 28:15-18; Isa. 14:12-17) As a result, he became depraved, the devil, the leader of the host of angels who fell with him, and the adversary of God and God's people (Rev. 12:4, 10-17; 13:7; 2 Cor. 11:13-15). Satan has been defeated and judged at the Cross. He now awaits his ultimate doom at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ (John 16:11; Rev. 20:1-2, 7-10)

The consummation of all things includes the rapture of the church, followed by a literal seven year period of tribulation on the Earth, the Second Advent of Jesus with His literal one thousand year reign on the Earth from Jerusalem and the final, White throne judgment of the unsaved (1 Thess. 4:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:50-54; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:11-15; Matt. 24:30; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Zech. 12:10, 14:3-11; Rev. 20:11:15). Satan with his hosts, and all humanity outside of Christ will be separated eternally from the presence of God, enduring eternal punishment in a literal hell (Matt. 25:41; Mark 9:47-48; 2 Thess. 1:7-10). All who have been redeemed by Christ from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light will be secure with Christ in the New Jerusalem with the new heaven and new earth forever (Rev. 21:1-4)