

Doctrinal Statement of



GraceChurch
Ovilla

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519 Westmoreland Rd.
Ovilla, TX 75154

Justin Jackson, Pastor

Phone: 972-617-0429
www.gracechurchovilla.org

Appendix (1)

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF GRACE CHURCH OF OVILLA

Section A. Section 1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe and teach that the Holy Scriptures of both the Old and New Testament are the verbally inspired Word of God, absolutely without error in the original documents. We also believe and teach that the Scriptures are the supreme and final authority in doctrine and practice.

John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21

Section B. Section 2. The Godhead

We believe and teach there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three equal persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Though these possess the same divine nature and attributes, they are distinct in office and activity.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 139:8; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14

Section C. Section 3. God the Father

We believe and teach that God the Father is Father over all creation (Acts 17:29), Father of the nation Israel (Exodus 4:22), Father of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:17), and Father of believers in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26).

We believe and teach that God the Father orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace (Psalm 145:8-9; I Corinthians 8:6). As the absolute and highest ruler in the universe, He has supreme power over all things – creation, providence, and redemption (Job 1:6; Psalm 103:19; Romans 11:33). He has graciously chosen from all eternity those whom He would have as His own (Ephesians 1:3-6) and He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (John 1:12,18).

Section D. Section 4. The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became a man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. We believe and teach that Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins in obedience to the Father's will. We believe and teach that our redemption and salvation are guaranteed to us by His literal physical resurrection from the dead. His resurrected body is the pattern of that body which ultimately will be given to all believers.

Luke 1:35; John 1:1,14,18; Romans 3:24-26, 4:25; I Corinthians 15:50-55; Ephesians 1:20-21

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven, exalted at the right hand of God, where as High Priest He fulfills the ministry of intercession and advocacy for His people.

Philippians 2:9-10; Colossians 1:17-19; Hebrews 1:3, 3:1, 7:23-25, 9:24, 12:2; I John 2:1-2

Section E. Section 5. The Holy Spirit

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, eternal, possessing all the divine attributes, and that in these He is coequal with God the Father and God the Son.

Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:14

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit took up His abode in the world in a special sense on the Day of Pentecost, permanently dwells in every believer, and by the Spirit's baptism unites all believers to Christ in one body, and that He, as the Indwelling One, is the source of all power and all acceptable worship and service.

John 14:16-17, 16:7-15; I Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 2:22

We believe and teach that, in this age, certain well-defined ministries are committed to the Holy Spirit. These ministries are the following: the restraining of evil in the world; the convicting of the world with respect to sin, righteousness and judgment; the regeneration of all believers; the indwelling and anointing of all who are saved; sealing believers unto the Day of Redemption; the baptizing into the body of Christ of all who are saved; the bestowing of spiritual gifts on each believer and the continued filling of power, teaching, and service of those yielded to Him.

John 3:6; 16:7-11; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:30, 5:18; II Thessalonians 2:7; I John 2:20-27

We believe and teach that some gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, were given as authenticating signs in the establishment of the Church and were temporary. We believe and teach that speaking in tongues was never the common nor necessary sign of the baptism nor of the filling of the Spirit, and that our emphasis is to be on that which edifies and unifies the Church. We believe and teach that the practice of speaking in tongues should not be expressed in corporate worship since it is not a gift given to edify the Body of Christ.

Isaiah 28:11; Acts 4:8,31; Romans 8:23; I Corinthians 12:13, 14:22-24; Hebrews 2:4

Section F. Section 6. Angels, Fallen and Holy

We believe and teach that angels are spiritual beings who were created as sinless personalities and that they occupied different orders and ranks. They presently exist in both fallen and holy states, the former including Satan and his demons.

Hebrews 1:13,14; II Peter 2:4; Revelation 7:12

We believe and teach that Satan, by his own choice the enemy of God and of the

people of God, is the originator of sin, that he led our first parents into sin and now rules as the god of this world. We believe and teach that he was judged at the cross and that ultimately he will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

Genesis 3:1-19; Isaiah 14:12-14; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10

Section G. Section 7. Creation of the World and Man

We believe and teach that all things in heaven and earth were created by God and exist by His power.

Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16-17

We believe and teach that man was originally created innocent and in the image and likeness of God but that he sinned, bringing both physical and spiritual death upon himself and his descendants. We believe and teach that man has inherited a sinful nature, is alienated from God and is in need of salvation.

Genesis 1:27, 2:17, 3:19, Ephesians 2:1-3

Section H. Section 8. Salvation

We believe and teach that SALVATION is the gift of pardon from sins (forgiveness) and eternal life with God (a personal relationship) made available to the sinner through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

John 1:12; 3:3-9; (Ezekiel 36:24-27); 4:10-12; 17:3; Romans 6:23; I Corinthians 15:3-5; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5

When the sinner comes to Christ for salvation, he comes with an awareness that sin has RUINED his life. Sin is a transgression of God's character and commands, a commitment to self-centeredness, and an over-riding concern for one's own desires. Because of sin, the sinner has missed the mark of God's righteousness, he is opposed to God, and helpless to save himself. The sinner is responsible for his ruined condition and before God deserves judgment. Ultimately, that judgment results in death which is eternal separation from God.

Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10-23; 5:6-10; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3

Through the person and work of Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, God has provided for the sinner a RESCUE from sin and its penalty. Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin and a curse, died in the sinner's place. Christ's death and resurrection reveals the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the love of God for sinners, and His forgiveness of the sinner.

Romans 3:21-26; 5:8; II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 3:18

If the sinner is to receive the gift of pardon and eternal life from God, he must RESPOND by trusting in Jesus Christ ALONE to save him. Saving faith is a humble dependence on God through Jesus Christ to deliver the sinner from God's wrath against sin. This dependence recognizes that Jesus Christ alone has the authority and capacity to save the sinner. He alone is the divine dispenser of salvation to those who believe in

Jesus Christ.

John 1:12; 3:16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:29; Acts 2:36; 10:36; 16:31; Romans 1:16,17; 3:22, 26; 4:5

Repentance is a vital part of believing, and is in no way, in itself, a separate and independent condition of salvation; nor are any other acts, such as confession, baptism, prayer, surrender of one's life to the Lordship of Christ, or faithful service, to be added to believing as a condition of salvation. Salvation is a gift of grace received by faith.

When the believing sinner places his trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, it begins to effect change in the person's life. The individual, at the moment of salvation, enters into a personal RELATIONSHIP with God and begins the journey of discipleship. This discipleship is the natural result of the spiritual rebirth which took place at salvation and not a prerequisite for salvation.

Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23-27, 57-62; 14:25-35; John 6:60-66; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:29; Titus 3:5

Section I. Section 9. Eternal Security

We believe and teach that all the redeemed once saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. This security is guaranteed by the fact that the life that is imparted is eternal life by that sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit.

John 5:24, 6:37-50, 10:27-30; 17:15-20; Romans 8:1,29-30, 38- 39; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; Jude 24

We believe and teach that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for sinful living and carnality.

Romans 6:15-22, 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13, 25-26; Titus 2:11-15

Section J. Section 10. Sanctification

We believe and teach that sanctification is a setting apart unto God by the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. This sanctification is positional, progressive and ultimate.

Positionally, it is already complete since the believer is in Christ and is set apart unto God as Christ is set apart unto God. Since he retains his sinful nature, however, there is need for progressive sanctification whereby the Christian grows in grace by the power of the Spirit. Ultimately, the child of God will be set apart from sin in his practice as he is now in his position in Christ when he is taken to be with Christ and shall be like Him.

John 17:17; II Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:25-27; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 10:10,14, 12:10

Section K. Section 11. The Church

We believe and teach that the Church, the Body and Bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism, made up of all born-again persons of this present age. We believe and teach

that the Church began on the Day of Pentecost and that a believer is placed into the Church by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit.

We believe and teach that the Church is distinct from Israel.
I Corinthians 12:12-13, 10:32; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27

We believe and teach that a local church such as Grace Church of Ovilla, is an assembly of professed believers in Jesus Christ, who are voluntarily joined together in one locality to glorify God by worshipping together, studying the Word of God, correcting one another in love, observing the ordinances, by fellowshiping together, by being equipped for Christian service and by spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Our common spiritual goal is to grow toward Christ's likeness.
Acts 2:42-47; Romans 8:29-30; I Corinthians 1:1-2; Ephesians 4:11-13

Section L. Section 12. The Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper which are to be observed by believers until He returns.
Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26

We believe and teach that by water baptism a believer is publicly identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection; that the mode of baptism is by immersion; that infants of believing parents may be dedicated to the Lord but not baptized.
Romans 6:3-7

We believe and teach that the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death, the elements being symbols of His body and blood. We believe and teach that every Christian, regardless of church affiliation, has a right to partake of the elements of the Lord's Supper but that participation should always be preceded by solemn self-examination.

Section M. Section 13. Marriage

We believe and teach that:

1. The Biblical standard for marriage is one man with one woman joined together in a permanent union throughout life.
2. Marriage was instituted by God.
3. Marriage is to be a monogamous, heterosexual relationship.
4. Marriage involves a formal and public leaving of one's own parents in order to

establish a new family as a married couple.

5. Marriage is the deepest possible relationship into which a man and woman can enter.
6. Marriage is to be permanent.

Section N. Section 14. Rapture and Second Coming of Christ

We believe and teach the personal imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for the Church, both those who have died in Christ and those who are alive.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

We believe and teach that the Rapture is followed by the tribulation on earth which will culminate in the return of Christ to earth to set up His millennial kingdom.

Zechariah 14:4-11; Matthew 24:15-31; Revelation 20:1-6

Section O. Section 15. The Eternal State

We believe and teach that at death the spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation will pass immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious joy until the resurrection of the body at His coming for the Church, when spirit, soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in His glory.

We believe and teach that the souls and spirits of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery in Hades until the final judgment of the great white throne at the close of the Millennium when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord.

Luke 16:19-26, 23:43; II Corinthians 5:8; Philipians 1:23; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15

Section P. Section 16. The Responsibility of Believers

We believe and teach that all believers should seek to walk by the Spirit, separating themselves from worldly practices. We believe and teach that it is the obligation of every believer to witness by life and by word to the truths of the Holy Scriptures and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all the world. We believe and teach it is the responsibility of all believers to remember the work of the Lord in prayer and to support it with their means as the Lord has prospered them. We believe and teach that every believer has a spiritual gift which should be exercised so that the body of Christ might be edified.

Acts 1:8; Romans 12:1-2, 14:13; I Corinthians 12:14, 16:2; II Corinthians 6:14, 7:1, 9:7; Ephesians 4:11-16