



## Longer Statement of Faith

### **Section 1: The Holy Scriptures**

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

Jn. 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21

### **Section 2: The Godhead**

We believe 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.

Dt. 6:4; Ps. 139:8; Mt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:13-14

### **Section 3: God the Father**

We believe God the Father is Father over all creation (Gen. 1:1; Act. 17:24), Father of the nation Israel (Ex. 4:22), Father of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mt. 3:17), and Father of believers in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:26).

God the Father orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace (Ps. 145:8-9; 1 Cor. 8:6). As the absolute and highest ruler in the universe, He has supreme power over all things – creation, providence, and redemption (Jb 1:6; Ps. 103:19; Rom. 11:33). He has graciously chosen from all eternity those whom He would have as His own (Eph. 1:3-6), and He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:12, 18).

### **Section 4: The Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is 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. 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.

Lk 1:35; Jn. 1:1,14,18; Rom. 3:24-26; 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:50-55; Eph. 1:20-21

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.

Php. 2:9-10; Col. 1:17-19; Heb. 1:3; 3:1; 7:23-25; 9:24; 12:2; 1 Jn. 2:1-2

## **Section 5: The Holy Spirit**

We believe 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.

Mt. 28:19; Act. 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 13:14

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.

Jn. 14:16-17, 16:7-15; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:22

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.  
Jn. 3:6; 16:7-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:30; 5:18; 2 Th. 2:7; 1 Jn. 2:20-27
- Certain gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, healing, performing miracles, and prophesying were given as authenticating signs in the establishment of the church.  
Is. 28:11; Act. 4:8, 31; Rom. 8:23; 1 Cor. 12:13; 14:22-24; Heb. 2:4
- If ever any of these gifts may occur within the gathering or scattering of the church, the terminology and practice must be in accordance with the Scriptures (e.g., tongues are a known language that must be interpreted and must follow the guidelines of 1 Cor. 12-14, healings and miracles should have at least two witnesses, prophecy must be 100% accurate, etc.).  
Dt. 18:20, 19:15; Mt. 8:4; 1 Cor. 12-14
- The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This fruit is brought about by the Holy Spirit for the edification of the Body of Christ.

Gal. 5:22-24

## **Section 6: Angels, Fallen and Holy**

We believe 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.

Heb. 1:13,14; 2 Pet. 2:4; Rev. 7:12

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. Satan was judged at the cross and that ultimately he will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

Gen. 3:1-19; Is. 14:12-14; Heb. 2:14; Rev. 20:10

## **Section 7: Creation of the World and Man**

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

Gen. 1:1; Col. 1:16-17

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. Man has inherited a sinful nature, is alienated from God, and is in need of salvation.

Gen. 1:27; 2:17; 3:19; Eph. 2:1-3

## **Section 8: Salvation**

We believe 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.

Ezk. 36:24-27; Jn. 1:12; 3:3-9; Act. 4:10-12; 17:3; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:3-5; Eph. 2:8-10; Tit. 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 overriding 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 he is 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.

Is. 53:6; Rom. 3:10-23; 5:6-10; 6:23; Eph. 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 reveal the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the love of God for sinners, and His forgiveness of the sinner.

Rom. 3:21-26; 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 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 himself. 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.

Jn. 1:12; 3:16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:29; Act. 2:36; 10:36; 16:31; Rom. 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.

Mk. 8:34; Lk. 9:23-27, 57-62; 14:25-35; Jn. 6:60-66; Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 5:17; Tit. 3:5

## **Section 9: Eternal Security**

We believe 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.

Jn. 5:24; 6:37-50; 10:27-30; 17:15-20; Rom. 8:1, 29-30, 38-39; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; Jd. 24

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.

Rom. 6:15-22; 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13, 25-26; Tit. 2:11-15

## **Section 10: Sanctification**

We believe 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 old crucified self (Romans 6:6), 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.

Jn. 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 5:25-27; 1 Th. 5:23; Heb. 10:10,14; 12:10

## **Section 11: The Church**

We believe the Church, the Body and Bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism, made up of all born again persons. The New Testament Church began on the Day of Pentecost. A believer is placed into the Church by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 10:32; 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27

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 worshiping together, studying the Word of God, correcting one another in love, observing the ordinances, fellowshiping together, being equipped for Christian service, and spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Our common spiritual goal is to grow toward Christ's likeness.

Act. 2:42-47; Rom. 8:29-30; 1 Cor. 1:1-2; Eph. 4:11-13

## **Section 12: The Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe 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.

Mt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

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.

Rom. 6:3-7

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 13: Marriage**

We believe the biblical standard for marriage is one man with one woman joined together in a permanent union throughout life.

- Marriage was instituted by God.
- Marriage is to be a monogamous, heterosexual relationship.
- Marriage involves a formal and public leaving of one's own parents in order to establish a new family as a married couple.
- Marriage is the deepest possible relationship into which a man and woman can enter.
- Marriage is to be permanent.

Gen. 2:24; 1 Cor. 7:39-40; Eph. 5:22-32

## **Section 14: The Return of Christ**

We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally. At that time, the dead will be raised and we who are still alive will be caught up together with Christ in the air. Thereafter, Christ will reign on earth and judge all men in righteousness. Those who are in Christ, who are in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and will dwell forever in the new heaven and new earth with the Lord.

Is. 2:4, 11:9; Mt. 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27, 30, 36, 44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mk. 8:38; 9:43-48; Lk. 12:40, 48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; Jn. 14:1-3; Act. 1:11; 17:31; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 4:5; 15:24-28, 35-58; 2 Cor. 5:10; Php. 3:20-21; Col. 1:5; 3:4; 1 Th. 4:14-18; 5:1; 2 Th. 2; 1 Tim. 6:14; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; Tit. 2:13; Heb. 9:27-28; Jm. 5:8; 2 Pet. 3:7; 1 Jn. 2:28; 3:2; Jd. 14; Rev. 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22

## **Section 15: The Eternal State**

We believe at death, the 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 soul and body are reunited and shall be associated with Him forever in His glory. The souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery in Hades until the final judgment 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.

1 Cor. 15:35-52; 2 Cor. 5:6-8; Php. 1:23; 1 Th. 4:16-17; 2 Th. 1:9; Rev. 14:11

## **Section 16: The Responsibility of Believers**

We believe all believers should seek to walk by the Spirit, separating themselves from worldly practices. 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.

Act. 1:8; Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 1 Cor. 12:14; 16:2; 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1; 9:7; Eph. 4:11-16

Approved: March 5, 2000; Amended: February 29, 2004; Amended: September 1, 2024