

## Grace Bible Church of Rainbow City Statement of Faith

**BIBLE** – We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, the final authority for faith and life.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 16:12-13

**GOD** – We believe in the one true God<sup>2</sup> eternally existing in three persons as the incomprehensible Trinity<sup>3</sup>- Father, Son and Holy Spirit – each possessing divine perfection and worthy of precisely the same homage and obedience. He, as creator and sovereign ruler of the universe, is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Deuteronomy 6:4 <sup>3</sup> Matthew 28:19 <sup>4</sup> 1 John 1:5

**JESUS CHRIST**- We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God<sup>5</sup>, who became man<sup>6</sup> without ceasing to be God<sup>7</sup>, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit<sup>8</sup> and born of the Virgin Mary, and that He lived a sinless life<sup>9</sup> that He might reveal God. We believe He accomplished our redemption through His death<sup>10</sup> on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice and full propitiation for our sins, and that our redemption is made sure to us by His literal, bodily resurrection from among the dead.<sup>11</sup> We further believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven, exalted at the right hand of God, where, as the High Priest for His people, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>5</sup> John 1:1-2 <sup>6</sup> John 1:14 <sup>7</sup> Philippians 2:6-8 <sup>8</sup> Luke 1:35 <sup>9</sup> Hebrews 4:15 <sup>10</sup> Romans 3:24-25 <sup>11</sup> 1 Peter 1:3-5 <sup>12</sup> Hebrews 4:14-16

**HOLY SPIRIT** – We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts mankind of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.<sup>13</sup> He alone enables a man to place genuine trust in Jesus Christ,<sup>14</sup> baptizing him into the body of Christ at the moment of saving faith,<sup>15</sup> indwelling him for godly living and forever sealing him to glory.<sup>16</sup> We further believe that this constitutes the only baptism by the Holy Spirit and need not be evidenced by any special gifts such as tongues.

<sup>13</sup> John 16:7-11 <sup>14</sup> John 3:5-6 <sup>15</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:12-24 <sup>16</sup> Ephesians 1:13-14

**MAN AND SIN** – We believe that man was directly created<sup>17</sup> by God in His own image, <sup>18</sup>holy and upright; that through the historic fall into sin, man comes under God's

condemnation,<sup>19</sup> and that in consequence the whole human race is dead in trespasses and sins<sup>20</sup> and subject to its judgment: death and hell. We believe that this total depravity extends to every person<sup>21</sup> because he is born into this world with a sinful nature which possesses no spark of divine life. We further believe that without God's provision for salvation in His Son,<sup>22</sup> Jesus Christ, no one can enter the Kingdom of God,<sup>23</sup> that no degree of reformation, no educational attainment, no cultural or philanthropic achievement, no religious ordinances can help a sinner toward the Kingdom.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Genesis 2:7 <sup>18</sup> Genesis 1:26 <sup>19</sup> Romans 5:12 <sup>20</sup> Ephesians 2:1 <sup>21</sup> Romans 3:10-12  
<sup>22</sup> John 3:18 <sup>23</sup> John 3:5 <sup>24</sup> Isaiah 64:6

**SALVATION** – We believe that salvation from sin is a free gift offered by God through His grace,<sup>25</sup> and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>26</sup> whose precious blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins, and that no repentance or penance, no resolution or sincere effort, no membership in nor submission to any church or its rules or regulations can in the very least add to the value of that blood or to the merit of the redemptive work on Calvary.<sup>27</sup>

We further believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.<sup>28</sup> We believe 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 sin.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Ephesians 2:8-9 <sup>26</sup> John 3:16 <sup>27</sup> I Peter 1:18-23 <sup>28</sup> John 10:27-30; Romans 8:38-39  
<sup>29</sup> Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13

**TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER** – We believe that every saved person possesses two natures,<sup>30</sup> with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit,<sup>31</sup> and that all claims to eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Ephesians 4:22-24 <sup>31</sup> Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25 <sup>32</sup> Romans 7:18-24

**CHRISTIAN LIFE** – We believe that the Christian is called with a holy calling to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.<sup>33</sup> Because he has become a new creature in Christ Jesus<sup>34</sup> and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit,<sup>35</sup> we believe that he should recognize that he is a pilgrim in this world,<sup>36</sup> with a mission to proclaim Christ, and to live a life consistent with his Christian testimony.<sup>37</sup> We believe that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful practices and associations is commanded of God.<sup>38</sup>

We also believe that it is the responsibility of every Christian to be yielded to the Holy Spirit<sup>39</sup> as commanded in the Scriptures, thereby bearing the fruit of the Spirit and exercising such gifts as the Spirit<sup>40</sup> may grant in His sovereign will.<sup>41</sup>

We believe that the Christian life should be characterized by love for and obedience to God's Word; love toward all men (even those considered to be enemies); humility, honesty, fidelity and integrity in all family, social, business and professional relationships.<sup>42</sup> We believe that the Christian will be increasingly sensitive to the sin of his own heart and will yield to Christ as Lord of his life for victory over pride, self-seeking, jealousy, a critical spirit, bitterness and all other characteristics of the old nature.<sup>43</sup> We believe that as the Christian permits God to work in his heart, he will separate himself from those things which tend to hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in his life and which impair the capacities of body, mind or spirit, realizing these gifts of God for which he is accountable and which are to be separated unto Him for His purposes.<sup>44</sup>

Moreover, we believe that the Christian should desire to mature in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Further, the Christian realizes that "no man liveth to himself" and will determine to forgo anything which causes his brother to stumble.<sup>45</sup> We believe that God has appointed prayer,<sup>46</sup> Bible reading,<sup>47</sup> worship,<sup>48</sup> fellowship,<sup>49</sup> giving<sup>50</sup> and witnessing,<sup>51</sup> as responsibilities and means of growth for His children.<sup>52</sup> We further believe that, as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will give account to Him.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Galatians 5:16 <sup>34</sup> II Corinthians 5:17 <sup>35</sup> John 14:16-17 <sup>36</sup> Philippians 3:18-21 <sup>37</sup> I Peter 1:14-16 <sup>38</sup> I John 2:15-17; II Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1 <sup>39</sup> Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16 <sup>40</sup> Galatians 5:22-23 <sup>41</sup> I Corinthians 12:4-12 <sup>42</sup> Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 1:9-11 <sup>43</sup> Romans 6:11-13 <sup>44</sup> Romans 12:1-2 <sup>45</sup> Romans 14:13 <sup>46</sup> James 5:16 <sup>47</sup> John 17:17 <sup>48</sup> Hebrews 10:24-25 <sup>49</sup> Colossians 3:16 <sup>50</sup> Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:2 <sup>51</sup> Acts 1:8 <sup>52</sup> II Peter 3:18 <sup>53</sup> II Corinthians 5:10

## **Marriage and Human Sexuality**

From the foundation of Grace Bible Church, we have consistently believed that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of the Bible, the Word of God, which is our inspired, infallible, and inerrant guide. (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Since the Bible speaks to the nature of human beings and their sexuality, it is imperative that we correctly understand and articulate what the Bible teaches on these matters.

Grace Bible Church regards marriage as a part of God's good creation and marriage within the Church as a rite and institution tied directly to our foundational belief of God as creator, who made us male and female. We also regard marriage as a sacred institution which reflects the mysterious and wonderful bond between Christ and His Church. Marriage is more than a contract between two persons (a secular notion). It is a covenant based upon promises between one man and one woman and finds its

divinely intended expression in the “one flesh” covenant union of husband and wife. We therefore will only authorize and recognize heterosexual marriages.

Grace Bible Church is committed to the home and family as set forth in Holy Scripture. We believe God has ordained and created marriage to exist between one man and one woman, with absolute marital fidelity. The Bible sets forth specific home and family values, which include the distinct roles of husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, and children. It is our firm conviction that we uphold the dignity of each individual as we embrace the unchanging and longstanding principles of scriptural truth.

(Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-24; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:7-23, 20:10-21; Deuteronomy 5:18; Matthew 5:27-28, 11:28-30, 15:19, 19:4-9; Mark 10:5-9; Romans 1:26-32, 3:23, 12:10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-13, 10:13, 12:12-13; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 2:1-10, 4:17-19, 5:25-27 and 31-33; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Timothy 5:1-2; Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16, 13:4; Revelation 19:7-9, 21:2)

**Marriage**—Grace Bible Church believes that Scripture defines marriage as the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” covenant union between one man and one woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother, and child.

(Genesis 1:27-28, 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-9, Mark 10:5-9, Ephesians 5:31-33)

**Sexual Immorality**—Grace Bible Church believes that sexual acts outside marriage are sinful. Consequently, Grace Bible Church members should resist and refrain from any and all sexual acts outside marriage—including but not limited to adultery, fornication, cohabitation (living together while not legally married), and homosexuality.

(Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:7-23, 20:10-21, Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 5:27-28, 15:19, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 4:17-19, Colossians 3:5)

**Sexual Identity**—As stated previously (under “Marriage”), Grace Bible Church believes that God created mankind in His image: male (man) and female (woman), sexually different but with equal personal dignity. Consequently, Grace Bible Church members should affirm their biological sex and refrain from any and all attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their predominant biological sex.

(Genesis 1:26-28, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

**Sexual Orientation**—Grace Bible Church believes that God created and ordered human sexuality to the permanent, exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal “one flesh” covenant union of man and woman. This union is intrinsically ordered for procreation and the biological family, and in furtherance of the moral, spiritual, and public good of binding father, mother and child. Consequently, Grace Bible Church members should

affirm the sexual complementarity of man and woman and resist any and all same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from any and all same-sex sexual acts or conduct.

(Genesis 1:27, 2:24, Matthew 19:4–6, Mark 10:5–9, Romans 1:26–27, 1 Corinthians 6:9–11, Ephesians 5:25–27, Revelation 19:7–9, 21:2)

**Sexual Redemption**—Grace Bible Church believes that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and encourages all to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by grace alone through faith in Him, and to live our lives unto Christ redemptively through putting off sin and putting on Christ by the word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. As members of Grace Bible Church, we are all broken by sin and each of us struggles with its effects in our lives and relationships. Yet, the regeneration, sanctification, and justification that are ours by faith in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, allow us to walk in complete forgiveness and provide true hope that in Christ our lives can be transformed and redeemed (I Corinthians 6:9–11). In grace, Grace Bible Church members should welcome and treat with respect, compassion, and sensitivity all who experience same-sex attractions or confess sexually immoral acts but are committed to resisting sexual temptation, refraining from sexual immorality, and conforming their behavior consistent with the teaching and admonition of scripture as affirmed in the Grace Bible Church Statement of Faith.

(Matthew 11:28–30, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1–10, I Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17–18, 4:14–16)

**Celibacy**—Grace Bible Church believes that Holy Scripture grants two life-enhancing options for human sexual behavior: (1) the conjugal “one flesh” marital covenant union of one man and one woman, and (2) celibacy. Both are gifts from God, given as He wills for His glory and the good of those who receive and rejoice in His gift to them. Celibacy and faithful singleness is to be celebrated and affirmed.

(Genesis 1:27–28; 2:18, 21–24; Matthew 19:4–6,12; Mark 10:5–8; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:1–8; 12:12–13; Romans 12:10; 1 Timothy 5:1–2)

**Religious Ceremonies or Events**—Grace Bible Church, for itself and each of its ministers and pastors, reserves the right to refuse to participate in any religious ceremony of any kind, or to facilitate or recognize any union or other conduct, that involves a relationship or other conduct contrary to these religious tenets.

No minister, pastor or employee of Grace Bible Church shall officiate or participate in any marriage ceremony that is not consistent with our religious tenets.

Grace Bible Church also reserves the right to refuse the use of its facilities for any ceremony or event of any kind that we deem contrary to our religious tenets.

**MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS** – We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts;<sup>54</sup> and that each believer is given at least one spiritual gift

which is important for the edification of the body.<sup>55</sup> We further believe that the gift of speaking in tongues was never the necessary or common sign of the baptism or the filling of the Holy Spirit.<sup>56</sup> In view of the fact that we now have the completed revelation of the doctrine there is no longer the need for the sign-gifts to corroborate the truths of God's Word.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>54</sup>I Corinthians 12:4-11 <sup>55</sup>I Corinthians 12:7 <sup>56</sup>I Corinthians 12:13 <sup>57</sup>II Corinthians 12:12

**MISSIONS** – We believe that it is the obligation of Christians to witness by life<sup>59</sup> and by word<sup>60</sup> to the truths of the Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to all mankind.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>59</sup> Matthew 5:16 <sup>60</sup> Acts 1:8 <sup>61</sup> Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the Holy Spirit incorporates all true believers of this age into the Church,<sup>62</sup> which is Christ's body.<sup>63</sup> We further believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught in the New Testament.<sup>64</sup> As members one of another<sup>65</sup> in the local church, we are responsible to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace,<sup>66</sup> loving one another with a true heart fervently.<sup>67</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Ephesians 2:18-22 <sup>63</sup> Colossians 1:24 <sup>64</sup> Acts 2:42; Acts 20:17 <sup>65</sup> Ephesians 4:25  
<sup>66</sup> Ephesians 4:3 <sup>67</sup> I Peter 1:22

**ORDINANCES** – We believe that Christ ordained the observance of water baptism<sup>68</sup> and the Lord's Supper for His Church, both confined to believers only. We also believe that the New Testament pattern of baptism is baptism by immersion.

<sup>68</sup> Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38

**ANGELS AND DEMONS** – We believe in the personal existence of unseen spirits in the world<sup>69</sup> who contend for the souls of men,<sup>70</sup> some furthering the purposes of God<sup>71</sup> and others, under Satan,<sup>72</sup> opposing those purposes.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>69</sup> Colossians 1:16, Ephesians 6:12 <sup>70</sup> I Peter 5:8 <sup>71</sup> Hebrews 1:7 <sup>72</sup> II Corinthians 11:14 ;  
Ephesians 6:10-18 <sup>73</sup> Revelation 12:9-12

**THE RETURN OF CHRIST** – We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy is the bodily, personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ to receive to Himself His own,<sup>74</sup> who are alive and also all those who have died trusting in Him.<sup>75</sup> This, our

blessed hope,<sup>76</sup> is an imminent certainty and promotes godly living in the present.<sup>77</sup> We further believe that this event will be followed by the Great Tribulation,<sup>78</sup> after which Christ will return to earth with His saints<sup>79</sup> to begin His millennial reign.

<sup>74</sup> John 14:3; Acts 1:11 <sup>75</sup> I Corinthians 15:23-24; I Thessalonians 4:13-17 <sup>76</sup> Titus 2:13  
<sup>77</sup> I John 2:28 <sup>78</sup> Matthew 24:21-28 <sup>79</sup> Matthew 24:29-31; Zechariah 14:5

**HEAVEN AND HELL** – We believe in the bodily resurrection<sup>80</sup> and everlasting blessedness of believers<sup>81</sup> and in the bodily resurrection, final judgment and everlasting punishment of unbelievers.<sup>82</sup> By this we mean that we believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence<sup>83</sup> and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His second coming. Further, we believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery<sup>84</sup> until the final judgment,<sup>85</sup> when soul and body shall be united and cast into the lake of fire to be separated from God and punished forever.<sup>86</sup>

<sup>80</sup> I Corinthians 15:12-21 <sup>81</sup> II Corinthians 5:1 <sup>82</sup> John 5:29 <sup>83</sup> II Corinthians 5:8 <sup>84</sup> Luke 16:19-31 <sup>85</sup> Revelation 20:11-15 <sup>86</sup> II Thessalonians 1:6-9