

Explanation of Doctrinal Statements
Grace Community Church
Huntsville, AL

Statement of Faith:

All members of Grace Community Church joyfully assent and adhere to the doctrinal summary contained within the document *Statement of Faith*.

What We Teach:

All who teach in any capacity within the ministries of GCC must teach, in accordance with and never contrary to, what is contained within the document *What We Teach*.

A Note on Historic Creeds and Confessions:

While historic creeds and confessions are not a requirement for formal membership or teaching, the GCC *Statement of Faith* and *What We Teach* are nevertheless in accord with the tradition of historic creeds (e.g., Apostle's, Nicene, Chalcedonian, Athanasian) and the broader statements of numerous historic confessions of faith.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We confess . . .

GOD

The Trinity

There is one God, perfect in all attributes, eternally existing in three persons but one in essence—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is the infinite, sovereign creator, sustainer, and ruler of all things. He alone is owed the highest love, obedience, and worship.

God the Father

God the Father personally and lovingly governs His creation according to His purposes and grace. He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption, decreeing all things for His own glory. Yet, He is neither author nor approver of sin and does not impede the responsibility of people.

God the Son

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, born of a virgin, is fully God and fully man. He took on human nature without sin and without surrendering His divine essence. He perfectly fulfilled the Law and accomplished the redemption through shedding His blood and sacrificing His life on the cross. Defeating death, He rose bodily on the third day and ascended to the right hand of the Father and lives to intercede for those who love God. He will return in glory to establish His kingdom and to judge those who refuse to worship God.

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, in all the divine attributes is coequal and coeternal with the Father and the Son. He is the supernatural and sovereign agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ. He indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers, and seals believers unto the day of redemption.

SCRIPTURES, HUMANITY, AND SALVATION

Scriptures

The Bible, divinely authored by the Spirit of God, is composed of sixty-six books and, in the original manuscripts is verbally inspired, authoritatively binding, wholly inerrant in every word, and fully sufficient in all matters pertaining to faith and practice.

Humanity

Human beings—created male and female in God’s image—exist to worship God and to bear His image upon the earth. Because humans have inherited a sin nature from the first man, Adam, humans reject God’s authority, are spiritually dead, and fall short of God’s purposes. Consequently, fellowship with God is destroyed, and all are subject to final judgment.

Salvation

Fellowship with God and liberation from judgment is restored by faith and repentance. One must trust in Jesus’ atoning death and subsequent resurrection and repent of unbelief. God’s forgiveness is granted by His grace alone and offered with no consideration for one’s moral deeds. Salvation, which includes present justification and future glorification, is eternally secured by God.

SANCTIFICATION, CHURCH, LAST THINGS

Sanctification

Sanctification, which begins at conversion and is completed in glorification, is the process of becoming like Christ. The believer’s pursuit of holiness is grounded in the merits of Christ’s righteousness, enabled by the indwelling Spirit who empowers our efforts to put off sin and put on righteousness that is necessary for spiritual growth and grace.

Church

The Church consists of all who have been regenerated by the Spirit. The Church is expressed in local and autonomous assemblies of believers that are under the supreme headship of Christ, led by biblically qualified elders, and served by biblically authorized deacons. The Church gathers as a worshipping, edifying, equipping, and disciple-making community. In fellowship with the local Church, believers should be obedient to the Lord in baptism and the Lord's Supper—two ordinances which demonstrate and celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ.

Last Things

Jesus Christ will physically and imminently return to earth, judging all evil, gathering all believers, and establishing His eternal kingdom, ushering in a new heavens and a new earth. After death, all persons will be resurrected physically and exist eternally in a physical environment either unto fellowship, blessing, and reward with God or unto judgment, separated from God in hell.