

## THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, alone is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and having supreme authority in all matters of faith and life.

## THE TRINITY

There is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons. They are equal in every divine perfection and they execute distinct but harmonious office in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

## GOD THE FATHER

God the Father is the infinite, eternal and almighty personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love, and is the first person of the Trinity. He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of peoples, He hears and answers prayers, and He saves from sin and death all who come to Him in repentance and faith through Jesus Christ.

## JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and is the second person of the Trinity. He was miraculously born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and performed miracles. We affirm His incarnation, teachings, substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and His personal, visible return to earth. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God the Father and humanity.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and is sent from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgement, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all who believe Jesus Christ. At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit as the abiding Helper, Teacher, and Guide indwells every believer in Christ and endows each believer with spiritual gifts for ministry to the family of God and the world.

## SALVATION

The central purpose of God's revelation in the Bible is to call all people into awareness of their sin, the availability of God's marvelous grace, and the need for repentance and faith that results in complete forgiveness and fellowship with God. All people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under the judgement of God. Those who call on the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness, believe in His resurrection and receive Him as their Savior are granted salvation, forgiveness of their sin and are regenerated by the Holy Spirit into a new life in Christ. This act of salvation is based solely on the grace and mercy of God, is not the result of human deeds or goodness.

## FUTURE DESTINY

Jesus Christ will come again to the earth, personally, and visibly, to establish His kingdom and fulfill God's eternal plan for creation. Physical death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For each person, there will be resurrection of the body, the final judgement before God, the eternal joy in heaven for those who are in Christ Jesus, or the endless suffering in hell for those who have not received salvation.

## THE CHURCH

The Church consists of a living spiritual body of believers of which Jesus Christ is the head and all regenerated believers are members. The Church exists as both a worldwide fellowship of the family of God as well as in specific local congregation consisting of a community of believers in Jesus Christ who are committed to following Him in obedience. Believers in a local church are called by God to gather together to devote themselves to worship, prayer, the teaching of the Word of God, observance of baptism and communion as ordinances established by Jesus Christ. Believers are to fellowship and care for one another through the development and effective use of spiritual gifts and resources. The commission of the local church is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by making disciples in the world, beginning in their own communities and reaching cross-culturally to the ends of the earth.

## THE ORDINANCES

The Lord Jesus Christ has instituted two ordinances for obedient observance by the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism does not constitute salvation, but is a public profession of faith that a person has already experienced salvation. The scriptures teach that the elements of Communion, or the Lord's Supper, have no mystical or supernatural power, but were given by Jesus as symbols of the sacrifice of His body and blood as atonement for the sins of the world. These two ordinances are to be observed and administered by God's family until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

\*The Grace Church Statement of Faith is a foundational document which identifies the core religious beliefs of Grace Church. The Statement directs the response of the church members, leaders and ministries to conditions, demands, needs, and the realities of the world the church and its members exist in. As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we believe that these truths are taught in the Scriptures and require adherence. The Statement does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs, for additional information on doctrinal issues please see the Grace Church Statement of Theology and Biblical References.