

Articles of Faith

THE BIBLE

We believe the holy scriptures of the old and the new testaments to be the verbally inspired word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed. **2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21, John 16:12-13**

GODHEAD

We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. **Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 2:18, Acts 5:3-4**

PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

(A) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal son of God became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary in order that he might reveal God and redeem sinful man. **Luke 1:35, John 1:1-2 & 14** // (B) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. **Philippians 2:7, Hebrews 2:14, Romans 8:34, 1 Peter 2:24 & 3:18** // (C) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our high priest, He fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor, and advocate. **Acts 1:9-10, Hebrews 9:24, Romans 8:34, John 2:1-2**

PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

(A) We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. **John 16:8-11, 2 Corinthians 12:2 & 14, Ephesians 1:13-14 & 4:30** // (B) We believe that He is the divine teacher who guides all believers into all truth; and, that is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the spirit. **John 16:13, 1 John 2:20, 27, Ephesians. 5:18**

CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was they should bring forth only "after their kind." **Genesis 1:1 & 1:26-27, Colossians 1:16-17, John 1:3, Romans 1:20**

TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF HUMANITY

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. **Romans 5:12 & 3:22-23, Ephesians 2:1-3**

SALVATION

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. **Ephesians 2:8-10, John 1:12, Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19**

JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great Gospel blessings which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us. **Romans 8:1 & 5:9, Titus 3:5-7, Galatians 3:11**

SANCTIFICATION

We believe that the sanctification has a two-fold meaning. (1) That of setting apart of things, days, or persons specifically for God, and that the believer at the time of his regeneration is so set apart by God the Father. (2) The progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer, obedient to the word of God experiences the power of the indwelling Christ for

holiness of life and victory over the old nature, which work will be completed when the believer stands in Christ's presence. **1 Corinthians 1:30, Hebrews 10:10-14, John 17:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:23**

ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS

(A) We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. **John 6:37-40 & 10:27-30, Romans 8:38-39** // (B) 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 license as an occasion to the flesh. **Romans 13:13-14, Galatians 5:13, Titus 2; 11-14**

THE CHURCH

(A) We believe that the church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born again persons of this present age. **Ephesians 1:22-23 & 5:25-27, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14** // (B) We believe that the establishment and continuance of the local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament scriptures. **Acts 14:27 & 20:17, 1 Timothy 3:1-3**

BAPTISM AND COMMUNION

(A) We believe that the Christian baptism is the believer's immersion in water; into the name of the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen savior. That in scriptural order it (baptism) precedes the privileges of church membership and is the public recognition of the lordship of Jesus Christ. **John 3:23, Romans 6:4-5, Matthew 3:16 & 28:19** // (B) We believe that the Lord's supper is a memorial service in which the elements of bread and wine (not fermented) remind us of God in Christ Jesus, "who spared not his own son but delivered him up for all of us", that this ordinance is to be observed in anticipation of his coming and preceded always by solemn self-examination. **1 Corinthians 11:23-28, Romans 8:32**

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

(A) We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all his gifts of evangelists, pastors, teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament scriptures were completed and their authority became established. **1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 2 Corinthians 12:12, Ephesians 4:7-12** // (B) We believe that God does hear and answer prayer of faith in accord with his own will, for the sick and afflicted, but we reject the teaching that bodily healing is in the atonement. **Matthew 8:17, 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 15:7, 1 John 5:14-15**

PERSONALITY OF SATAN

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. **Job 1:6-7, Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:10**

THE RAPTURE AND SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe in that "blessed hope" the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation rapture and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for his redeemed ones; and his subsequent return to earth, with his saints, to establish his millennial kingdom. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, Revelation 3:10 & 20:1-6**

ETERNAL STATE

(A) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. **Matthew 25:46, John 5:28-29, John 11:25, Revelation 20:5-6** // (B) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. **2 Corinthians 5:8, Philippians 1:23 & 3:21, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** // (C) We believe that all believers between the rapture and the eternal state must stand before the judgment seat of Christ. This judgment is not to determine their salvation but their reward according to their work. They shall be rewarded according to the things done in the body, whether it be good or bad. **1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:7-12** // (D) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the great white throne judgment, and shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. **Matthew 24:41-46, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, Revelation 20:11-15**

SANCTITY OF LIFE

(A) Concerning human life, scripture sets forth several basic truths which are essential to our understanding of the seriousness of its destruction. God alone is the giver of life, all life (**Isaiah 43:7 & 21, Acts 17:22-28**); this includes the poor (**Job 34:19, Proverbs 22:2**), the handicapped (**Exodus 4:11, John 9:3**), the unborn (**Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:13-16**), and the elderly (**Leviticus 19:32**). God alone has the right to deny or end life (**Deuteronomy 32:39**), and life does not begin except by the work and will of the Spirit of God (**Psalm 104:30, Job 33:4**). // (B) It becomes clear that human procreation is more than simple reproduction. In the procreation God allows man to share in his divine creative activity to produce life. Man cannot do it alone (**Psalm 100:3**). Man's sexual activities cannot force God into creating life against his will; human life is never an accident (**Psalm 139:13-16**). Therefore, we may not question our existence, nor that of anyone else, born or unborn (**Isaiah 55:8-9 & 64:8**). // (C) If life has begun, it was begun by God (**Jeremiah 1:5**). This life (unless it is ended) will become a spiritual creature, made in God's own image (**Genesis 1:27**), with the potential of being God's child for all eternity. We cannot, therefore, condone the taking of human life, even for rape, incest, illness, old age or deformity. To do so is to make the unscriptural implication that life belongs to the healthy, wealthy and wanted. // (D) Grace Community Church hereby affirms its conviction that abortion on demand, for reasons of personal convenience, social adjustment, or economic advantage is morally wrong. This also applies to infanticide and euthanasia. It therefore, expresses its firm opposition to any legislation designed to make abortion, infanticide or euthanasia possible for these reasons.