

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

INTRO TO GRACE

Grace Covenant Church declares its allegiance to the Holy Scriptures as the supreme and final authority for faith and practice. This church seeks to be truly Catholic, truly Evangelical, and truly Reformed. It aspires to be truly Catholic in standing with Christians across the ages who believe biblical truths. It desires to be truly Evangelical by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ as the only remedy for sin, and it seeks to be truly reformed by affirming the principles of scripture alone, grace alone, and faith alone.

In order to become a member of Grace Covenant Church you must only align yourself with the most fundamental expressions of these truths, because Christians grow from a basic elementary knowledge of the essentials of the Christian faith to a more mature understanding. These essentials are expressed in the Truths That We Confess, which contains the Apostle's Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Grace Declaration. In order to teach or lead in formal ministry capacities in the church a member must agree with a deeper understanding of these truths as found in the Truths That We Treasure. Not included in this document is a third and more detailed official statement of faith for all the elders serving in this church entitled Truths That We Teach, which can be found in The Grace Covenant Book of Faith and Order.

TRUTHS THAT WE CONFESS

THE GRACE DECLARATION

God, solely for His own glory, justifies sinners by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone according to the exclusive authority of the Holy Scriptures.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; on the third day He arose from the dead; ascended to heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from which He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

** The term "catholic" refers to the universal body of Christ and not to the Roman Catholic Church*

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church; I acknowledge one baptism because of the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

TRUTHS THAT WE TREASURE

- We believe in the one true and living God, in three Persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who is invisible, personal, omnipresent, eternal, dependent on none, unchanging, truthful, trustworthy, almighty, sovereign, omniscient, righteous, holy, good, loving, merciful, long-suffering, and gracious.

- We believe that Almighty God has revealed all that is necessary to life and salvation in the sixty-six books of Holy Scripture which are the Word of God. All Scripture was given by inspiration of God, is infallible and inerrant, and is the final arbiter in all disputes. Its authority is derived from its Author and not from the opinions of men.

- We believe that God made our first father Adam perfect, holy and upright. He was appointed representative and head of the human race thereby exposing all his offspring to the effects of his obedience or disobedience to God's commands.

- We believe that Adam fell from his original righteousness into sin and brought upon himself and all his offspring death, condemnation, and sinner-ship.

- We believe it is utterly beyond the power of fallen man to love God, to keep His laws, to understand the Gospel, to repent of sin or to trust in Christ.

- We believe that God, before the foundation of the world, for His own glory did elect an innumerable host of men and women to eternal life as an act of free and sovereign grace. This election was in no way dependent upon His foresight of human faith, decision, works, or merit.

- We believe that God sent His Son into the world, conceived of the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, unchangeably sinless, both God and man, born under the Law, to live a perfect life of righteousness, on behalf of His people.

- We believe that God's Son died at Calvary to effect propitiation, reconciliation, redemption, and atonement for his people. God bore testimony to his acceptance of his Son's work by raising him from the dead.

- We believe that God's Son ascended to the right hand of his Father and is enthroned in glory, where he intercedes on behalf of his people and rules over all things for their sake.

- We believe that God the Son has poured out the Holy Spirit to work alongside the preached word. The Spirit of God regenerates the elect sinners and draws them irresistibly to faith in Christ the Savior.

- We believe the elect, whom God calls to himself, are justified in the sight of God on account of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ which they receive through faith alone.

- We believe that those people whom God regenerates, calls, and justifies shall persevere in holiness and never finally fall away.

- We believe that baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are gospel ordinances belonging only to regenerated believers.

- We believe that the local church is under the authority of Christ alone. The communion of saints, however, requires recognition of and fellowship with other churches.

- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shall come again to raise the dead, both the righteous and the unrighteous, and that the righteous shall enjoy everlasting life and the wicked endure everlasting punishment.

