

# Statement of Beliefs

## Grace Covenant Church, Columbia, MO

### God

We believe in one God and Father of all, creator of heaven and earth. Eph. 4:6; Gen. 1:1; Isa. 40:28; 51:13.

### Jesus

We believe in Jesus, Who is the Christ, the only begotten Son of God; born of the virgin Mary, fully human and fully divine, Who was crucified for our sins, was bodily resurrected from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; Who will return in glory to judge the world and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. Matt. 1:21; John 1:14; Matt. 1:23; 27-35; 26:27-28; 28:6; Heb. 1:3; Matt. 25:31; 1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 11:15; 19:11-16.

### The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the triune God, Who was sent by God to continue the ministry of Jesus to the Church and to the world. Eph. 4:4; Heb. 1:3; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:1.

### The Holy Bible

We believe the Holy Bible (Old and New Testaments) is the inspired, infallible, and complete Word of God. It is truth; a source of patience and comfort; the final authority on matters of doctrine; and the guide in Christian living. Understanding the Bible is a gift from God. 2 Tim. 3:16; Rev. 22:18; John 17:17; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 2:11.

### Salvation

We believe in salvation by grace through faith. We understand salvation to mean being saved by Jesus from the Second Death (which is eternal punishment for sin) and deliverance in this life from the power of sin and evil. A person receives salvation upon being born again by accepting Jesus as Savior. Eph. 2:8-9; Matt. 1:21; Rom. 6:23; Rev. 21:8; Gal. 1:4; Col. 1:13; John 3:3-6; John 5:24; Rom. 10:9-13.

### Justification

We believe in justification – that God restores us to a right relationship with Himself in Christ. Faith is the means by which we accept God's gift of justification. Rom. 3:24; 4:4-5; 5:1; Gal. 2:16.

### Sanctification

We believe in sanctification as the present work of the Holy Spirit, Who lives in believers to bring them into the holiness and righteousness God has declared for them from the foundation of the world. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Titus 3:3-7; 2 Tim. 1:9.

## Baptism

We believe in one baptism into the Father (Who seeks), the Son (Who saves), and the Spirit (Who sanctifies). Water baptism (by immersion), preceded by repentance of sin, is symbolic of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Through this ceremony, the believer's old self symbolically dies and is raised with the resurrection power of Jesus; the believer is immersed into the Kingdom of God, the fellowship of the body of Christ, and the suffering of the Lord. Eph. 4:5; Matt. 29:19; John 6:44; Rom. 5:10; 1 Cor. 6:11; Matt. 3:16; Acts 8:39; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-6; Phil. 3:10; 1 Cor. 12:13.

## The Church

We believe in one Church, the spiritual body of Christ, of which Jesus is the Head, composed of all true believers, brought together to continue the ministry of Jesus and for the perfecting of the saints to become the spotless Bride of Christ. Eph. 4:4; Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 4:11-13; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 21:2.

## Tithing

We believe tithing is the biblical model of honoring God with our substance as an expression of worship and financing the ministries of the Church. Gen. 14:19-20; Prov. 3:9-10; Mal. 3:8-12; Matt. 23:23; 1 Cor. 9:1-11.

## The Second Coming

We believe in the Second Coming of Christ; that Jesus will visibly return to the earth in power and great glory at the last trump and bring the fullness of the Kingdom of God to the earth. John 14:3; Rev. 1:7; Zech. 14:4; Matt. 24:30-31; Dan. 2:44; Rev. 11:15.

## Resurrection

We believe in the resurrection of the dead, which will take place at Jesus' Second Coming. This is the hope of Christians. This is the time when the saints are rewarded, made perfect, and receive immortality. 1 Cor. 15:12-15; 1 Thes. 4:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Acts 23: 6; 1 John 3:1-3; Col. 1:5; Acts 24:14-15; Rev. 11:18; Heb. 11:39-40.

## The Kingdom of God

We believe the Kingdom of God is God's heavenly realm. We are translated into the Kingdom of God when we are born again. We will inherit the Kingdom of God at the second coming of Christ. John 18:36; Co. 1:13; John 3:3-6; 1 Cor. 15:50-54.

## Hell

We believe all unregenerate sinners will be cast into hell fire. This is the second death. John 5:28-29; Rom. 6:23; Matt. 10:28; Rev. 21:8.