



GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

Our Statement of Faith

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GOD

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

THE BIBLE

God has spoken in the scriptures both Old and New Testaments through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

THE HUMAN CONDITION

God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God, and fully man. One Person in two natures. Jesus-Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

THE WORK OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and His victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

THE CHURCH

The true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish believers.

CHRISTIAN LIVING

God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. *In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.*

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe in the personal, bodily and *glorious* return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

RESPONSE AND ETERNAL DESTINY

God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF AMERICA (EFCA)

The EFCA is a movement of nearly 1,500 autonomous churches united by a mutual commitment to serve our Lord Jesus Christ with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and obedience to the Word of God. They are committed to cooperate with one another in ministry and fellowship as they seek to fulfill the Great Commission which Christ has entrusted to His Church. The growing ministry of the EFCA currently extends to some 75 nations of the world.

The term **Evangelical** refers to our commitment to the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and to the Scriptures as being inerrant in the original writings, the complete and sufficient revelation of God's will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. For the EFCA this means that the Bible can be trusted in all that it teaches in whatever subject it addresses.

The term **Free** refers to the form of church government which assures that our local churches are free from a central controlling body. EFCA churches depend upon the active participation of pastors and lay people in the decisions and direction of the local church.

Grace Bible Church is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. For information on the EFCA, go to www.efca.org.

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