

Statement of Faith of Grace Baptist Church - Chillicothe, MO

- A) THE WORD OF GOD** - We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. They are the inerrant, infallible, complete, and final revelation of God's will to man, and the supreme standard to all faith and life. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning, and all issues of interpretation and meaning shall be determined by the pastor. (Isaiah 40:8; John 10:35; II Tim 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21)
1. The King James Bible shall be the official and only translation used by Grace Baptist Church.
- B) GOD** - We believe in one God, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, manifesting Himself in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; one in nature, attributes, power, and glory. (Gen 1:1; Matt 28:19; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-14; II Cor 13:14; Philippians 2: 5-11)
1. **JESUS CHRIST** - We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary who was a virgin, and that He is all God and all man. (Isaiah 9:6, 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-4,14; Philippians 2:6-11).
 2. **HOLY SPIRIT** - We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, and the administrator of the things of God: convincing mankind of sin, revealing Christ, teaching the truth, restraining evil, energizing believers in prayer, worship and service, and is ever present in the believer as our comforter and helper. (John 7:38,39; 15:26; 16:13, 14; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9; I Cor 6:19; II Thess 2:7)
- C) MAN** - We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, that he sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are also sinners by choice. (Genesis 1:26; 2:7-9,16,17; 3:1-7; Psalm 14:3,4; 51:5; 58:3; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3)
- D) SALVATION** - We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe on Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood on the cross, and are saved by grace through faith, wholly apart from human merit and works. (John 1:29; Acts 13:38, 39; 16:31; Romans 3:21-28; Eph 2:8-10, Titus 3:3-8)
- E) DISPENSATIONALISM** - We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life that define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, as there is only one way of salvation for all time, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations - the law, the church, and the kingdom - are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture. (Genesis 1:28; I Cor 9:17; II Cor 3:9-18; Gal 3:13-25; Eph 1:10; 3:2-10; Col 1:24-27)

- F) SATAN** - We believe in the reality and person of Satan, who was once named Lucifer: that he is a created being of beauty and power, the prince of this world, the god of this age, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience; that he fell through pride, and that he will be judged and cast into the lake of fire. (Isaiah 14:12-17 ; Ezekiel 28:11-19; John 8:44; II Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2; Rev 20:1-3, 7-10)
- G) RETURN OF CHRIST** - We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, His ascension into Heaven, His present life there for us as our High Priest and Advocate, and His personal, bodily, visible, pre-millennial return to establish His kingdom on earth, to reign as the only potentate: the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Luke 24:26-43; John 20:24-29; Acts 1:9-11; I Cor 15:3-8, 20-25; I Tim 6:14, 15; Rev 1:7; 19:11-16; 20:6)
- H) RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS** - We believe in a pre-tribulation rapture; that at any moment the catching away of the saved may occur, when the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven to catch up His people "to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (John 14: 1-3; 1 Cor 15:51-57; 1 Thess 4:13-18)
- I) HEAVEN AND HELL** - We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead: the saved, to eternal life in heaven with God; the unsaved, to eternal judgment of conscious suffering and woe in the lake of fire. (John 5:28-29; Rev 20:6, 11-15,21:1-8; Mark 9:43-49)
- J) EVANGELISM** - We believe that it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to be a personal soul winner and to do his utmost to give the Gospel of Christ to the whole world. (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:8; Matt 28:18-20; II Corinthians 5:20)
- K) SEPARATION** - We believe that we are called to be a separated people to abide in Christ, to walk in the Spirit and to enjoy victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. (Romans 12:1-2; Gal 5:16; I John 2:15-17; Col 3:1-17; I Cor 6:19-20; II Cor 2:14)
- L) ETERNAL SECURITY** - We believe that all who have truly been born again by the Spirit of God through faith in Christ are eternally secure. Our security rests in the finished work of Jesus Christ, and that all the redeemed are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 5:24, 10:27-30; II Tim 1:12; Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:35-39; John 3:16; I John 5:12-13)
- M) LOCAL CHURCH** - We believe that Christ founded the local, New Testament church during His earthly ministry. It is a called out assembly of Scripturally baptized believers that was empowered on the Day of Pentecost. It should be busy fulfilling the Great Commission, teaching people how to be saved, baptizing those that get saved, discipling believers, and exhorting one another until Christ returns. (Matt 16:18-19; I Cor 12:12-14; Eph 1:22-23; 5:25-27; Acts 20:28)
- N) ORDINANCES** - We believe that there are two ordinances of the Lord's churches: water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.
1. Baptism is to be administered to believers only. Upon being baptized, the person shall become a member of Grace Baptist Church.

2. The Lord's supper is to be administered to the church membership. We believe and practice CLOSED communion. Furthermore, the materials used in the Lord's Supper shall be unleavened bread and unfermented fruit of the vine. There is no set time for observance of the Lord's Supper. Observance shall be solely at the pastor's discretion.
 3. We believe that neither baptism nor the Lord's Supper saves a person's soul. (Matthew 3:16; 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; 16:16; Acts 2:38; I Corinthians 11:23-32)
- O) HUMAN SEXUALITY & GENDER** - We believe that the only Biblical marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate physical activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography is a sinful perversion of God's original intent for a physical relationship between a husband and wife. We believe that God forbids of any attempt to alter one's gender by appearance or surgery, as God has created only two genders: male and female. (Genesis 2:24; 19:5-13; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-32; I Corinthians 5:1; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)
- P) ABORTION** - We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, inexcusable taking of a human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (Psalm 139:14-16; Proverbs 6:16-17; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:44)
- Q) GIVING** - We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving. The tithe being ten percent of the believers gross income or increase. Also every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully as the Lord leads to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:8-11; Acts 4:34-37; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-7; Ephesians 4:28; I John 3:17)
- R) LAWSUITS BETWEEN BELIEVERS** - We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32)
- S) DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE** - We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-9; Rom. 7:1-3; I Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

- T) CIVIL GOVERNMENT** - We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: (1) the home, (2) the church, and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and are governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities. (Romans 13:1-7; Hebrews 13:17; I Timothy 2:1-2; I Peter 2:13-14)
- U) EUTHANASIA** - We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28)
- V) MISSIONS** - We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)