

Articles of Faith

Grace Bible Church, Coeur d'Alene, ID
Adopted May 3, 2009

In the following Articles of Faith, all Scripture references are to be interpreted as translated in the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible.

1. **The Holy Scriptures –**

- a. We believe in the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Bible, consisting of 66 books that make up the Old and New Testaments. We believe that the Bible was inerrant in the original writings, that it is the complete and unalterable special revelation of God, and that it is our final authority. We believe that God has revealed His plan for mankind progressively through the time of Bible history. *Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13; Ephesians 3:3-5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21*
- b. We believe in the normal, literal, and consistent interpretation of the Scriptures, and we resist attempts to twist or distort the interpretation of the Scriptures. *2 Corinthians 3:12; 4:1-2; 2 Peter 3:15-16*
- c. We believe that God has preserved His revelation for us, even through the human actions of copying and translating. We believe that God's Word has been preserved in the family of Greek and Hebrew manuscripts used to translate versions such as the King James Version. *Psalms 12:6; 119:89; Matthew 24:35*

2. **The 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. *Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 15:27; 1 John 5:7*

3. **The Person and Work of the Father**

- a. We believe it is the work of the Father to love the world, to forgive sins, to provide for the daily needs of believers, to keep believers secure in Christ, and to raise the dead. *Matthew 6:9-15,31-34; John 3:16; 5:21*
- b. We believe the Father sends both the Son and the Holy Spirit into the world and superintends their ministry. *John 5:19-21; 14:16*

4. **The Person and Work of the Son**

- a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, that as a human He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and that He lived a sinless life. He came that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. *Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2,14; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-22; Hebrews 1:2-3*
- b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, that He provided atonement for the sins of the whole world, and that our justification is verified by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. *Romans 3:24-25; 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24; 1 John 2:2*

- 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; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14-15; 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1-2*

5. ***The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit***

- a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the divine Comforter. As such, He comforts and encourages believers. *John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7*
- b. We believe the Holy Spirit is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth. He moved the writers of Scripture to record the words of God. *John 16:13; 1 John 2:20,27; 2 Peter 1:20-21*
- c. We believe the Holy Spirit in this present age convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He regenerates and baptizes believers into the body of Christ; and that He indwells and seals believers until the day of redemption. It is the privilege of believers to be filled with, and their duty to walk in, the Holy Spirit. *John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18*

6. ***The Sinful Character of Man*** - We believe man was created in the image and likeness of God but in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. As a result, man is depraved in all his being and is unable to remedy his lost condition. *Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:20-22*

7. ***The Salvation of Man***

- a. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice for all people. *Romans 5:18; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 John 2:2*
- b. We believe all who believe on Christ are saved by grace through faith on the grounds of His shed blood. Believing on Christ involves an admission of guilt as a sinner and a confession of Christ as the crucified and risen Savior. *John 1:12; 5:24; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:8-10*
- c. We believe that every saved person consists of spirit and flesh, that victory of the spirit over the flesh has been provided through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and that the maturing of the believer is progressive throughout his earthly life. *Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9*
- d. We believe it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, but that believers are clearly forbidden to use their Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. *Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15; 1 Peter 2:13-20*

8. ***The Security of the Believer*** - We believe that every saved person is accepted in Jesus Christ and kept by God's power, so they are thus secure in Christ forever. *John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1,38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5*

9. **The Church**

- a. We believe the church, which began with the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, is the body and bride of Christ. It is the spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of the present age. *Acts 2:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:32; 12:1-13; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27*
- b. We believe the body of Christ is visibly expressed through the establishment and continuance of local churches as taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. *Acts 14:27; 20:17,28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11*

10. **Ordinances** - We believe the Lord Jesus Christ established two ordinances for the Church in this present age. These are believer's water baptism, practiced by immersion; and the Lord's Supper, observed as a memorial of His death. *Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41; 8:35-39; 10:47-48; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 1:14; 11:23-26*

11. **Missions** - We believe that Christ commissioned the church to make disciples from among all nations, to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and to teach them to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded. *Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20*

12. **The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts**

- a. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ gives the Church gifted men to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. *Ephesians 4:7-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14; 1 Timothy 5:17; 2 Peter 5:1-3*
- b. We believe the Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts upon believers for Christian service and the edification of the Church. *Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11*
- c. We believe the church was initiated through the ministry of the apostles and prophets and that signs and wonders from God confirmed their message. *Acts 2:47; 5:12; 14:3; Romans 15:19; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 2:3-4*
- d. We believe God hears and answers prayer in accord with His own will for healing of the sick and afflicted. *John 14:13-14; 15:7; James 5:14-15; 1 John 5:14-15*

13. **The Person of Satan** - We believe Satan is a created being, the first to sin, the tempter in the fall, the declared enemy of God and man, and the god of this age. He shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. *Genesis 3:1-7; Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9-10; 20:1-2,10*

14. **The Second Advent of Christ** - We believe in the personal, imminent, and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones. We believe He will return to earth with the saints in power and glory to reign for a thousand years. *Zechariah 14:4-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Titus 2:13; Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6*

15. **The 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; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6,12-13*

- b. We believe 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 and glorified to be forever with the Lord. *1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-23; 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 6:9; 20:4-6*
- c. We believe the souls of unbelievers are, at death, absent from the body and 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. *Isaiah 66:22-24; Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15*

16. **Creation** - We believe the triune God, by a free act and for His own glory and pleasure, without the use of existing materials or secondary causes, brought into being the whole visible and invisible universe. We believe He accomplished this immediately and instantaneously in six literal days by the word of His mouth. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. *Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:8-11; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 104:25-26; Isaiah 40:21-31; John 1:1-5; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 4:11.*

17. **Biblical Separation and Unity**

- a. We believe the saved should separate themselves unto the Lord Jesus Christ by holy living in all personal and ecclesiastical associations and relationships. *Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Titus 2:14; James 4:4-5; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 2:15-17*
- b. We believe we are free to cooperate with other churches, missions, and organizations whose doctrine and policy are compatible with ours. We will not cooperate with or endorse any movement, organization, or program that is contrary to our Articles of Faith in doctrine or practice. *Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5:7-11; Ephesians 4:1-6; 2 Thessalonians 3:11-14; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 3:10; 2 John 1:9-11; 3 John 1:9-11.*

18. **Human Government** – We believe that God has ordained and created human authority in three basic institutions: (1) the home, (2) the local church, and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the local church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. *Acts 4:19; 5:29; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14.*

19. **Human Sexuality**

- a. We believe that God created humans in distinct, male and female sexual genders. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, self-

gratification, and pornography is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. *Genesis 2:24; 19:5-7; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Matthew 5:27-28; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4*

- b. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. *Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11; Ephesians 5:22-23*

20. **Family Relationships**

- a. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible to hold the offices of Pastor, Elder and Deacon. *Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 3:18; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 3:2, 4-5, 12*
- b. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Children are to obey their parents. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including biblical, corporal correction. *Genesis 1:26-28; 3:16; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mark 10:6-12; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Peter 3:1-7*

21. **Divorce and Remarriage**

- a. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one or the other spouse dies. We believe that divorcing one spouse and marrying another while the first spouse is still living constitutes an act of adultery. *Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-12; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:1-3*
- b. We believe that God forgives sin, including both divorce and adultery caused by remarriage. Therefore, divorced or divorced and remarried persons may hold membership and be elected or appointed to positions in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service. Scripturally, however, they may not be considered for the offices of Pastor, Elder or Deacon. *1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6*
- c. We believe that the vows taken in marriage are sacred and should be honored as stated before God and witnesses. *Numbers 30:2ff; Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4-6; Matthew 5:37*

22. **Abortion** – We believe that human personhood begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of human life. We reject any teaching that abortions are acceptable for pregnancies due to rape or incest, or for reasons such as birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother. *Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:44*

23. **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 or accidental death. Thus, we believe that any act or omission that brings about death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. (Discontinuing or refusing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome, however, can be a legitimate response to over-zealous treatment.) *Exodus 20:13; 23:7; Matthew 5:21; Acts 17:28*

24. ***Lawsuits Between Believers*** – We believe that believers are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other believers 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 believer may seek compensation for injuries from another believer’s insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander.) *1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32*

ARTICLE 4—Authority of the Articles of Faith

The Articles of Faith above do not include everything that we believe. The Bible itself is our only source and our final authority for all questions not addressed by the Articles of Faith. We do believe, however, that these Articles accurately represent the teaching of the Bible and are therefore binding upon all members. All teaching given in the Church must be in agreement with these Articles. All staff must affirm these Articles of Faith and maintain a lifestyle in agreement with them as a condition of continued employment.