



## Bible - Authority

### Introduction:

We affirm the sixty-six books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. Thirty-nine writings make up the OT (Old Testament) and written before Christ came; and twenty-seven writings make up the NT (New Testament) which were written after Christ came.

As stated in Grace Church's [Statement of Faith](#): "We believe the Bible was written by people guided by God's Spirit and affirm what it says it is: authoritative, inspired, illumined by the Spirit and useful for teaching, correcting, and wisdom."

Although selections from the Apocrypha, as well as many historical Christian creeds and confessions, may be periodically used, referenced, and recited during the Sunday Gatherings, and in various meetings at Grace Church, these are not considered equally authoritative as the writings from the OT and NT. Rather, they can serve as a means to further relay and affirm what the Bible aims to communicate, as well as connecting us to the historicity of our Christian faith.

### Position:

Scripture addresses us with full divine authority in its total extent and in all its parts. Therefore, Grace Church speaks of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Though it is inspired by God, it was also conveyed through human authors. Thus we speak of the Scriptures possessing both a Divine and human component. The Divine component, i.e., God being the inspirational source and guide, gives it its authority and demands that we approach the Bible humbly, ready to be shaped by it, and mystically, leaning on the Holy Spirit to rightly understand and apply it. The human component reminds us that it was written by people for people. So we take things such as literary genre, writing styles, original languages, and historical context into consideration as we decipher what the Bible is aiming to communicate.

We also believe the Bible is not dependent on the findings of science, but these findings may, and often do, lead to a better understanding of Scripture and must be developed within a Christian community faithful to the authority of Scripture.

Lastly, the authority of Scripture is to be believed, affirmed, and consistently applied/practiced in the life and ministry of Grace Church.

### For Further Reflection:

Please consider the following passages: 2 Timothy 3:16;

We also have additional teachings on the matter(s):

- [Exploring Divine Self-Disclosure](#) (a sermon on God's Special and General Revelation)

**About Grace Church Position Papers:**

The purpose of these papers are not to provide a comprehensive study on the particular topic, rather they are succinct statements on particular issues which represent our church's belief, mission + vision, and DNA. There are many Scriptural, historical, ecclesiological, and experiential reasons behind them. Have questions? Please feel free to inquire. We welcome the dialogue.

*To be wise is to be eternally curious. ~ Frederick Buechner*