

What We Believe

Introduction:

Our ability to grow together as a church stems from what we hold central: Jesus and a commitment to the biblical narrative. By the grace of God, the story of his narrative becomes our story; and we persevere in it by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we look to serve and invite others to participate in this pursuit together. With the harmony of both *orthodoxy* [right thinking] and *orthopraxy* [right practice/living] as our goal, this statement of faith seeks to not only guide our thoughts and minds, but the way we live our lives.

In a Nutshell:

Grace Church is an inter-denominational church. We affirm the historic Apostles' and Nicene Creed. We hold Jesus and the historic biblical narrative as central to our beliefs. And, to acknowledge the ongoing work of God's grace in our lives and in anticipation of Christ's return, we partake of Communion (The Eucharist) every Sunday morning. And all are welcome to follow Jesus with us.

Mere + Historic Christianity:

The night of Jesus' arrest, he prayed these words, "Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one" (John 17:11).

The visible disunity of the Christian church is one of the obvious credibility problems we face as Christians and it seems we are living in a distant dream from the prayer that Jesus prayed in John 17.

In essentials, unity. In nonessentials, charity. In all things, Jesus Christ. In the spirit of this historic Christian mantra, at Grace Church, we seek to be a community of generosity, openness, conviction, and reverence. We desire to be a church where one can learn to follow Jesus in good conscience and biblical integrity as we strive to believe and teach that which has been believed by Christians in all places and at all times. This means we remain committed to the central tenants of the historic Christian tradition while leaving room for civil disagreement and various biblical interpretation on other matters (Romans 14).

Examples of summaries of this historic Christian tradition and faith are found in documents, penned by the early church, like the [Apostles Creed](#), the [Nicene Creed](#), and even earlier in [1 Corinthians 15](#).

Here's our Summary of the Historic Christian 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.

[See Psalm 119:105-112; John 16:12-14; 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17]

We believe in the one true Creator God, who shows God's self through self-giving love in a communal relationship of oneness displayed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

[See Genesis 1; Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 1:35, 3:22; John 1:32; Acts 7:55; Romans 8]

We believe God created all things good and all people in God's image for relationship with God, each other, ourselves, and creation.

[See Genesis 1-2; 1 Timothy 4:4]

We believe people's rebellion against God broke their relationship with God and continues to perpetuate sin, death, brokenness, and destruction in our world.

[See Genesis 3:15; Romans 5:12; Colossians 1:21]

We believe God has not abandoned creation, and in love, sent to earth God's one and only Son Jesus, fully God and fully human, born of a virgin and without sin to redeem creation.

[See Matthew 1:28-55; John 1; John 3:16-17; Romans 8:19-25; Colossians 1:15-20]

We believe Jesus came proclaiming a new arrival of the Kingdom of God—a reality marked by love, grace, peace, and joy. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus defeated sin and death inaugurating a new creation that offers all people eternal life. Jesus is the only way to access the free gift of grace, renewed peace, and reconciliation with God.

[See John 1:29; Romans 3:22-26; 5:1-9; 14:17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 21:5]

We believe Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to every believer, empowering them with gifts, conviction, guidance, comfort, and counsel. The Spirit leads the believer into a communal life of worship and a missional expression of our faith and love.

[See John 14:26; 20:21-23; Ephesians 1:17-19; Acts 1:8]

We believe Jesus calls people to be his disciples in all areas of life, exhibiting faith in him by our social and personal practices, bringing glory to God.

[See Matthew 5:14-16; 22:36-40; Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11-12; 2 Peter 3:18]

We believe the church is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ, practicing spiritual disciplines, and celebrating baptism and the Lord's Supper. The church is the local and global community of Jesus followers who proclaim [through word and action] the good news of forgiveness, restoration, and reconciliation for all.

[See Matthew 22:36-40; 28:19-20; John 20:21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21]

We believe Jesus will return to judge the world, bringing an end to injustice and restoring all things to God's original intent. God will reclaim this world and rule forever. Our relationships with God, others, creation, and ourselves will be whole. All will flourish as God intends. This is what we long for. This is what we hope for.

[See Isaiah 11:1-9; Isaiah 65:19-25; Matthew 19:28; Acts 3:21; Colossians 1:19-20; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21]

Recommend Books to Help Guide You on Your Journey:

Simply Christian by N.T. Wright

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

Surprised by Hope by N.T. Wright

The Prodigal God by Timothy Keller

The King Jesus Gospel by Scot McKnight

The Servant King by Desmond Alexander

The Reason for God by Timothy Keller