

GC2 Church Articles of Faith

A. The Holy Bible

The Holy Bible is the result of God guiding and directing men to write its content. Its author is ultimately God Himself who reveals Himself, His standards, His judgments, His love, and His plan through the Bible. Therefore, all of Scripture is true, trustworthy, and inerrant in all that it asserts. It serves as the basis for unity among Christians and is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, philosophy, and religious views should be judged. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is the focus of divine revelation. We as a church are united in our commitment to honor, study, and obey Scripture.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

B. God

There is one and only one eternal, living, and true God. He is an all-loving, all-intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinitely holy, perfect, and just. God is all-powerful and all-knowing; His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. God exists and reveals Himself to us as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

1. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all people, but God is Father only to those who become His children through faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

2. God the Son

Christ is God the Son eternal. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Temporarily setting aside the prerogatives of His divinity, Jesus Christ perfectly revealed and did the will of God the Father, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored God's divine law by His personal obedience, and His substitutionary death on the cross provided for the redemption of people from sin and the reconciliation of God and people. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator between God and humans, fully God, fully human. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

3. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through His illumination He enables people to understand the Truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts people of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He draws people to the Savior, and causes the regeneration of their heart, mind, and spirit. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He dwells within the believer, cultivates Christ-like character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the Church to worship,

evangelize, and serve. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

C. Humanity

All people are the special creation of God. The sacredness of every person is evident in that God created people in His own image, knew and formed every person in the womb, and loves every person. Therefore, every person of every race or ethnicity possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. God created the human race male and female as the crowning work of His creation. God in his sovereignty has immutably and wisely determined each person's gender in keeping with their God-given biological sex at birth. In the beginning people were innocent of sin and were endowed by God, their Creator, with freedom of choice. By their free choice Adam and Eve, the first humans, sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan humanity disobeyed the command of God and fell from its original innocence. All of posterity has inherited a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as people are capable of moral action, they will sin and become transgressors. Their transgressions alienate them from God and each other, cause all of creation to suffer, and result in their condemnation to physical and spiritual death. Only the grace of God can restore people, bring them into fellowship with God, and enable them to fulfill God's creative purpose.

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, ¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalms 139:13-16 (NIV)

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

D. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood and death obtained eternal salvation for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Salvation is a gift from God and is not obtained by one's own works.

1. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart brought on by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Repentance is a genuine turning away from sin toward God. Faith is the belief in Jesus Christ and the commitment to make Him Lord and Savior.
3. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ and the imparting of Christ's righteousness to them. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God.
4. Sanctification is the process, beginning with regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to live for God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Sanctification should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.
5. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and eternal state of the redeemed with Christ in glory.
6. All true believers endure to the end. God has redeemed them in Christ and sanctified them by His Spirit. Therefore, they will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their access to God's grace and comfort, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet

they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:4; 7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5. Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

E. Ordinances

1. **Baptism:** GC2 Church practices baptism for those who have chosen to accept Christ as Savior and Lord by immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Pastors may make exceptions to immersion due to unusual circumstances.) Baptism is an act of obedience, symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, the spiritual resurrection into a newness of life in Christ Jesus, and the physical resurrection of the believer when Christ returns.
2. **The Lord's Supper:** The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Christ and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

F. The Local Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of believers. The congregation is bound together by a common faith, a common love for one another, and by the Gospel. The congregation observes the two ordinances of Christ: the Lord's Supper and baptism. It is governed by Scripture and the Holy Spirit, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges given to them according to Scripture, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of Lead Pastor and Elder is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

G. The Christian Home

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

1. God ordained marriage to be the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. Marriage as God designed is His unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church. It provides the framework for intimate companionship, the channeling of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. Sexual intimacy is to occur only between a man and a woman married to each other.
2. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marital relationship between the husband and wife should be modeled after the love relationship between Christ and the Church.
3. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and gift from the Lord. Parents have the primary responsibility to educate and disciple their children in the truth of God. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to love their children and teach them Biblical morals and values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-

31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

H. The Christian Life

It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be fully set apart for God, being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service. Therefore, the Christian should aim to love God supremely and others sacrificially, and to do the good works that God has prepared for him to do. The Christian life is lived by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit with care for one another, compassion toward the poor, and justice for the oppressed. We unite together in the local church and make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the Gospel in word and actions.

Deuteronomy 10:12; Proverbs 22:22; 29:7; Matthew 22:37-38; 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:5, 17; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:8-10; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:11; 2 Timothy 1:7; Hebrews 10:25; 11:1-6; James 1:21; 1 John 2:15-16.

I. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings and abilities, temporal and spiritual, and they are to be used for the glory of God and the blessing of others. In addition, God has given creation, the welfare of others, and the spreading of the Gospel as sacred trusts to his followers. For these reasons and in gratitude for Christ's sacrificial death on the cross for us, Christians should lovingly, and sacrificially serve Christ with their time, talents, and material possessions. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute from their financial means willingly, cheerfully, regularly, and sacrificially, for the advancement of the work of God's Kingdom on earth including their own local church.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

J. Human Life

All human life is sacred and created by God in His image and begins at the moment of conception. Human life is a gift from God that is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. The Bible does not give any person the right to end one's own life or the life of another person except in the cases of self-defense, war, and the administration of civil justice.

Genesis 1:1; 1:27; 9:5-6; Exodus 20:13; 21:22-23; Deuteronomy 27:25; 32:39; Job 10:8-12; 31:15; Psalm 127:3-5; 139:13-17; Isaiah 44:2; Jeremiah 1:4-5; Amos 1:13; Matthew 7:12; Luke 1:39-41; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

K. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The redeemed in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

L. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every believer in Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Therefore, evangelistic and missionary effort on the part of all believers is a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every believer to constantly seek to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

M. These Articles of Faith do not exhaust the extent of GC2 Church's beliefs. The Bible remains the definitive authority for all matters of faith and practice. For the purposes of doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Elder Council, which includes the Lead Pastor(s), is the final interpretive authority for GC2 Church on the Bible's meaning and application in matters not stated in this constitution.