

WHAT WE TEACH

THE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

*The portion below is taken from <https://www.gracechurch.org/about/doctrinal-statement>.

The Church

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We teach that the one supreme authority for the church is Christ ([1 Corinthians 11:3](#); [Ephesians 1:22](#); [Colossians 1:18](#)) and that church leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through His sovereignty as found in the Scriptures. The biblically designated officers serving under Christ and over the assembly are elders (also called overseers and pastors, [Acts 20:28](#); [Ephesians 4:11](#)) and deacons, both of whom must meet biblical qualifications ([1 Timothy 3:1–13](#); [Titus 1:5–9](#); [1 Peter 5:1–5](#)).

We teach that the eldership of a local congregation consists of spiritually qualified men who lead or rule as servants of Christ ([1 Timothy 2:11–12](#); [5:17–22](#)) and have His authority in directing the church. The congregation is to submit to their leadership ([Hebrews 13:7](#), [17](#)).

We teach the importance of discipleship ([Matthew 28:19–20](#); [2 Timothy 2:2](#)), the mutual accountability of all believers ([Matthew 18:5–14](#)), as well as the need for discipline of sinning members of the congregation in accord with the standards of Scripture ([Matthew 18:15–22](#); [Acts 5:1–11](#); [1 Corinthians 5:1–13](#); [2 Thessalonians 3:6–15](#); [1 Timothy 1:19–20](#); [Titus 1:10–16](#)).

We teach the autonomy of the local church, free from any external authority or control, with the right of self-government and freedom from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations ([Titus 1:5](#)).

We teach that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other for the presentation and propagation of the faith. Each local church, however, through its elders and their interpretation and application of Scripture, should be the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. The elders should determine all other matters of membership, policy, discipline, benevolence, and government ([Acts 15:19–31](#); [20:28](#); [1 Corinthians 5:4–7](#), [13](#); [1 Peter 5:1–4](#)).