



# GRACE

## BIBLE CHURCH

### Doctrinal Statement and Bylaws

"To prepare God's people for works of service, so  
that the body of Christ may be built up."

*Ephesians 4:12*

# DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

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## GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

Please note: Terms in bold type are defined in the Glossary

## THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, to be the verbally inspired Word of God, written by men in God's control, inerrant and infallible in the original manuscripts and the final authority in faith and life. We accept the grammatical-historical system of **interpretation** of the Scriptures, and accept the historical record of the Bible as **accurate and adequate**.

PSALM 19:7-9

*7 "The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.*

*8 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

*9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether."*

2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17

*15 "And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

*16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*

*17 That the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

2 PETER 1:20-21

*20 "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,*

*21 For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."*

## THE GODHEAD

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who are identical in essence, **equal** in power and glory, and possess precisely the same attributes and perfection.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4

*"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!"*

MATTHEW 28:19

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,"*

2 CORINTHLANS 13:14

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."*

JOHN 1:18

*"No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."*

JOHN 10:30

*"I and the Father are one."*

JOHN 15:26

*"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me,"*

## THE CONDITION OF MAN

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, in an untested state without sin. But in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became spiritually dead and alienated from God, so that man is a sinner by both nature and imputation; and man, of himself, is incapable of remedying his lost and depraved condition.

### GENESIS 1:26

*"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"*

### GENESIS 3:6-7

*6 "When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.*

*7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings." (see all of Genesis 3)*

### ROMANS 3:10-18

*10 "As it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one;*

*11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God;*

*12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.'*

*13 'Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving,' 'The poison of asps is under their lips';*

*14 'Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness';*

*15 'Their feet are swift to shed blood,*

*16 Destruction and misery are in their paths,*

*17 And the path of peace have they not known.'*

*18 'There is no fear of God before their eyes.'*

### ROMANS 5:12

*"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all men sinned"*

### EPHESIANS 2:1-3

*1 "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,*

*2 In which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

*3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest."*

## THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God; that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin in order that he might redeem sinful man. He accomplished this redemption by voluntarily giving Himself as a sinless judgment against sin. He gave proof that He accomplished that **redemption** by His bodily resurrection from the grave. He then ascended to the right hand of His Father where He **intercedes** on behalf of those who trust Him.

### JOHN 1:1-2

*1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*2 He was in the beginning with God."*

JOHN 1:14, 18

14 *"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

18 *No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him."*

JOHN 10:30

*"I and the Father are one."*

LUKE 1:34-35

34 *"And Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'*

35 *And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.'"*

ROMANS 3:24-26

24 *"Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;*

25 *Whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;*

26 *For the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."*

ROMANS 8:34

*"Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."*

## **THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Person who convicts the world of sin; that He alone brings a new nature to those who are spiritually dead; that He **baptizes**(or places) all believers into the one true church which is the Body of Christ; that He **indwells** them permanently, eliminating possession by any other spiritual power; **seals** them unto the day of redemption; bestows spiritual gifts upon them; and fills (controls) those who are yielding to Him.

JOHN 3:3, 5-6

3 *"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'*

5 *Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

6 *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.'"*

JOHN 16:7-9

7 *"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.*

8 *And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;*

9 *Concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;"*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13

*"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."*

JOHN 14:16-17

16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;  
17 That is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you."

EPHESIANS 4:30

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

1 CORINTHLANS 12:7-11

7 "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.  
8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;  
9 To another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,  
10 And to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.  
11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills."  
12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

EPHESIANS 5:18

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,"

## SALVATION

We believe that **salvation** is the **gift** of God's grace given to all whom God has elected to salvation. It includes all that God does in saving the elect from the penalty, power and presence of sin and in restoring them to a right relationship with God, and as such it is solely the work of God from initiation to completion. It cannot be gained by **good works** but is a free gift for all who put their trust in Jesus Christ alone and His finished work on the cross. All who so trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are **forgiven** and saved from their sins and made righteous before God and are born into the family of God by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. God's purpose for saving His elect is so that they bring glory to Him by their lives.

EPHESIANS 1:7

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,"*

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;  
9 Not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

JOHN 1:12

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,"

2 CORINTHLANS 5:21

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

*For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."*

TITUS 2:11-14

- 11 *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,*  
12 *Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,*  
13 *Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;*  
14 *Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."*

## SECURITY, ASSURANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

We believe that all the saved, those in whom God has accomplished His transforming work of grace, are kept by His power, and thus are **secure** in Christ forever. This assurance, however, is not the occasion for sin, for God in His holiness cannot tolerate persistent sin in His children and, in infinite love, He **disciplines** them. True faith in Christ is expressed by a fruitful, **God-pleasing life**.

JOHN 6:38-40

- 38 *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*  
39 *And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.*  
40 *For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."*

JOHN 10:27-29

- 27 *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;*  
28 *And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.*  
29 *My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."*

ROMANS 8:29-30, 32-35, 38-39

- 29 *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;*  
30 *And whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*  
32 *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*  
33 *Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;*  
34 *Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.*  
35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*  
38 *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,*  
39 *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

IJOHN 5:13

- 13 *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life."*

MATTHEW 7:20

- 20 *"So then, you will know them by their fruits."*

JAMES 2:20

*20 "But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?"*

## SANCTIFICATION

We believe that God, in the Scriptures, has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness. This includes the salvation from the penalty of sin and, just as surely, the provision of sanctification (separation) from sin. Sanctification from sin affects both the positional and practical aspects of the life of any believer. Positional sanctification, as a work of the Holy Spirit, is complete and is without further growth; however, practical sanctification, a result of the work of the Spirit in **regeneration** using the Word of God, provides the nourishment for growth in maturity in Christ. While practical sanctification is assured by the Word and the Spirit, it is yet **imperfect** in this life. There is some element of corruption in every part of the fallen nature which is the source of the war between the flesh and the Spirit. The maturing to obedience is possible for believers as they feed on the Word, submit to the Spirit of God and are in **fellowship with believers** for service and accountability.

JOHN 17:17

*"Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."*

I CORINTHIANS 1:30

*"But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,"*

ROMANS 6:19, 22

*19 "I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.*

*22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life."*

HEBREWS 10:25

*"Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."*

I PETER 2:2

*"Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,"*

II PETER 1:3

*"Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence."*

ROMANS 12:2

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

II CORINTHIANS 3:18

*"But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."*

COLOSSIANS 3:10

*"And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him"*



## THE CHURCH

We believe that the true Church, called in Scripture the **Body of Christ**, is a **spiritual organism**. Every person who has trusted Jesus Christ for salvation in this present age has been baptized (placed) into this organism by the Holy Spirit. The **local church**, as established in Scripture, is made up of redeemed individuals who have joined together for worship, **instruction**, fellowship and service.

EPHESIANS 1:22

*"And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,"*

I CORINTHIANS 12:13

*"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."*

ACTS 2:42

*"And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."*

ACTS 13:1-2

*1 "Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.*

*2 And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"*

HEBREWS 10:25

*"Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near."*

## ORDINANCES

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances to be observed by all believers until His return **believer's baptism** and the Lord's Supper. The practice of Grace Bible Church regarding communion is regular but unscheduled services which are open to all believers.

MATTHEW 28:19

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,"*

I CORINTHIANS 11:22-26

*22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.*

*23 "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

*24 And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'*

*25 In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'*

*26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."*

## THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe in the personal, pre-tribulational coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Church and His subsequent **pre-millennial** return to earth to establish His kingdom.

### 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

13 *"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.*

14 *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.*

15 *For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.*

16 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.*

17 *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

18 *Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

### ZECHARIAH 14:4-11

4 *"And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.*

5 *And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!*

6 *And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.*

7 *For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.*

8 *And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.*

9 *And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.*

10 *All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses.*

11 *And people will live in it, and there will be no more curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security."*

### REVELATION 19:11-16

11 *"And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.*

12 *And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself.*

13 *And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.*

14 *And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.*

15 *And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.*

16 *And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.'"*

### REVELATION 20:1-6

1 *"And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.*

2 *And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,*

3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is the one who has apart in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years."

## **THE ETERNAL STATE**

We believe that, at death, the souls of those who have trusted Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence and remain there in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at Christ's coming for the Church, when soul and body will be reunited. We then shall be with Him forever in glory. We also believe that at death the souls of unbelievers remain in conscious misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of the Millennium when the soul and body will be reunited and cast into the lake of fire - not to be annihilated, but to be separated from God forever in conscious punishment.

### **LUKE 16:19-26**

19 Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day

20 And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores,

21 And longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.

22 Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.

23 And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.'

25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'"

### **II CORINTHIANS 5:8**

"We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord."

### **PHILIPPIANS 1:23**

"But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;"

### **II THESSALONIANS 1:7-9**

7 "And to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

8 Dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,"

REVELATION 20:11-15

11 *"And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.*

12 *And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.*

13 *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.*

14 *And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.*

15 *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."*

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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GRACE BIBLE CHURCH  
DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

## INTERPRETATION

This is the foundation for a pretribulational return of Christ for the church:

*Revelation 3:10* "Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the earth."

And a premillennial return of Christ to earth to set up His earthly kingdom:

*I Corinthians 15:23-26* "But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, Then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death."

*Revelation 11:15* "And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.'"

*Revelation 12:10* "And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night'

There is therefore a distinction between Israel and the Church:

*Galatians 3:15-18* "Brethren, I speak in terms of human relations: even though it is only a man's covenant, yet when it has been ratified, no one sets it aside or adds conditions to it. Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, Christ. What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise."

*Romans 11:25, 26, 29* "For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 And thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, 'The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.' 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."

*II Corinthians 11:2* "For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin."

*Ephesians 5:23* "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body."

*I Corinthians 12:13* "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

*Galatians 3:26-29* "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."

## ACCURATE AND ADEQUATE

General (natural) revelation, although holding man fully accountable:

*Romans 1:19-21, 32; 2:1-2 19* "Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 for even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 32 And,

*although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them." 2:1 "Therefore you are without excuse, every man of you who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.*

Is not to be compared with special revelation of the Scriptures. The idea that "all truth is God's truth" by itself is a true statement; however, since the practical application of the axiom depends upon fallible man's judgment, it cannot be used to import "truth" from non-biblical sources. The Scriptures are accurate and completely sufficient. The theories offered by psychology to explain "why we are the way we are and how we can change": are not accepted and argue against the sufficiency of Scripture which gives God's answers to these questions.

## **EQUAL**

There is a functional hierarchal order in the godhead: Father first, Son second and Spirit third.

*John 14:24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father who sent Me."*

*John 16:28 "I came forth from the Father, and have come into the world; I am leaving the world again, and going to the Father."*

*John 14:16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever"*

*I Corinthians 11:3 "But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman and God is the head of Christ."*

## **IMPUTATION**

To impute means to attribute or reckon or ascribe something to someone. It is not mere influence but involvement that is at the heart of the concept. When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden his sin was then imputed or reckoned or attributed to all men. Through Adam's sin, sin then entered the world.

*Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned"*

We find that "all sinned" is connected with the one sin of Adam. The verse does not say that Adam sinned and that others sinned also. Five times Paul states that condemnation and death reign over all because of the one sin Adam has reckoned or imputed to us.

*Romans 5:15-19 "But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. For if through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then as through, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous."*

## **DEPRAVED**

The fall of man was complete. There is no godly virtue left in man after the fall. The will to respond to God's grace is even beyond man's ability, albeit it remains man's duty to respond.

*Romans 7:18 "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not."*

*Romans 8:7 "Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so;"*

*1 Corinthians 2:14 "But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised."*

*Ephesians 4:18 "Being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;"*

Please note also Romans 3:10-18, previously quoted under "The Condition of Man."

## **REDEMPTION**

Redemption is the release or loosing of one by the paying of a price. This price was paid to the holiness and righteousness of God and is never to be seen as an appeasement to Satan. Its meaning centers around the atoning work of Christ as the price paid for human redemption.

*Romans 3:21-24 "But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;"*

*Galatians 3:13 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'--"*

*Ephesians 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace"*

## **RESURRECTION**

The resurrection of Christ is the basis for the resurrection of the body of all believers. It is not figurative nor spiritual but real in time and space.

*John 20:27 "Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing.'"*

*Luke 24:37-43 "But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit, and He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still could not believe it for joy and were marveling, He said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and He took it and ate it before them."*

## **INTERCEDES**

Christ as our priest is the mediator between man and God. Christ is the one who draws near to God and pleads on our behalf. The prayers and praises to God are acceptable to God through Christ's intercession. Christ, in an emphatic sense, pleads the cause of those who are His through salvation.

*1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,"*

*Hebrews 4:14-16 "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."*

*Hebrews 7:25 "Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*



*Hebrews 13:15* "Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name."

*I John 2:1* "My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;"

*Romans 8:27* "And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

## **NEW NATURE**

The life given by the Holy Spirit is more than simply "forgiven" with a continuing dead faith. It is a life that is of God which transforms the person into a totally new creation. God, very God, in the person of the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in the life. The life that is lived henceforth is truly changed from the inside out. This person will be marked by others as different from "before" due to the new nature.

*II Corinthians 5:17* "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is anew creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

*Romans 12:2* "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

*Colossians 3:9-10* "Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him"

## **BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The baptism of the Spirit occurs at salvation and is a once-for-all-time event.

*I Corinthians 12:13* "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

*Romans 8:9* "However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."

A subsequent spiritual baptism after salvation for the purposes of enablement, giving some sign or other reasons, is not supported by the Scripture. Since the baptism of the Spirit occurs in the realm of the spirit, there are no accompanying visible manifestations as there were in some instances in the early church.

*Acts 2:4* "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."

*Acts 19:6* "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying."

The sign gifts were to validate the ministry of the Apostles:

*II Corinthians 12:12* "The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles."

Who for the most part were the writers of the New Testament. Once these writings were complete, the sign gifts disappeared with the Apostles and with those to whom they personally ministered.

## INDWELLS

The indwelling of the Spirit takes place at the point of salvation.

*Romans 5:5 "And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*

The Holy Spirit lives in all believers and remains there even when the believer sins. The indwelling aspect of the Holy Spirit is also an encouragement for the believers to live a Godly life.

*I Corinthians 6:18-19 "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"*

The indwelling Holy Spirit is a result and assurance of salvation.

*Romans 8:9 "However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."*

Therefore, the indwelling of the Spirit is that which characterizes all believers according to *Romans 8:9* and the loss of the indwelling of the Spirit is the loss of salvation. The security of the believer and the permanent indwelling of the Spirit are inseparable doctrines.

## SEALS

As with the indwelling, the sealing of the Holy Spirit belongs to all believers only.

*II Corinthians 1:21-22 "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, Who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge."*

*Ephesians 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."*

In *Ephesians 4:30*, we see that this sealing is "to the Day of Redemption." This refers to that future day when our redemption shall be fully accomplished, and we receive our resurrection bodies. Thus, the sealing guarantees the complete fulfillment of God's promise to us and no believer can become unsealed on his way to heaven.

*Ephesians 1:13-14 "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, Who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."*

## GIFT

Because of man's depravity, blindness, and rebellious nature, salvation is possible only as a gift given without merit.

*Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; Not as a result of works, that no one should boast."*

*Romans 4:4-5 "Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,"*

## ELECT

The elect refers to those individuals who, through divine choice, are pre-determined to become the children of God and therefore heirs of heaven. This election or choice is based on God's foreknowledge.

*1 Peter 1:1-2 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure."*

This foreknowledge is not that God, simply through omniscience, knew which men would exercise faith, but that God fore-loved them in the sense of a pre-relationship. God in His sovereignty has chosen those to whom He would give salvation, and those individuals who are His sons are referred to as the elect. Election, then, is the God-determined guarantee that the elect person will believe the Gospel unto salvation during his lifetime.

*John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you."*

*Romans 11:4-5 "But what is the divine response to him? 'I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.' In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice."*

*Ephesians 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,"*

*II Thessalonians 2:13 "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth."*

*II Timothy 2:10 "For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory."*

## **GOOD WORKS**

It would include those works that God "may see" in the future. This precludes the idea of an election based on God's view of the future, where He is "seeing the faith", thereby granting salvation on those terms.

*Titus 3:5 "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,"*

*Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

## **FORGIVEN**

Total forgiveness is granted by God based on the substitutional death of Christ on behalf of the believer. All believers acknowledge their sinful condition and trust in the death of Christ to pay the penalty for sin past, present, and future.

*1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

To acknowledge sin as sin is a confession that characterizes believers.

*I Timothy 6:10-11 "For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness."*

*II Timothy 2:22 "Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."*

Have an appreciation for the cleansing ministry of Jesus Christ.

*I John 2:1-2 "My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."*

## **SECURE**

The salvation of the elect is secured from before the foundation of the world.

*Ephesians 1:4 "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love"*

*John 10:28-29 "And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."*

The electing work of Christ secures not only the elect to salvation for this life but also to eternity.

## **FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD**

Fellowship of a person with God is established on the basis of the death of Jesus Christ for his sin. The relationship with God as a son is established forever and is not interrupted. While sin in the life of the believer is detrimental to his testimony as a believer, grieves the Holy Spirit, and is out of character for a believer, he, by virtue of his adoption, is still a son.

*I John 1:6 "If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;"*

*I John 4:15 "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."*

*I John 5:12 "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."*

## **DISCIPLINE**

It is the responsibility of the believer to maintain a walk that is worthy of the calling to salvation. We are to examine ourselves and correct any behavior or habits that are not becoming of our Lord. If we fail to walk in this worthy manner or do not examine ourselves, the Lord disciplines us.

*I Corinthians 11:32 "But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world."*

The purpose of the Father's discipline to His sons is to bring about holiness. This discipline is a further proof that the loving Father is concerned with His sons.

*Hebrews 12:5-13 "And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, ' My son, do not regard lightly the*

*discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.' It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, And make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed."*

## **GOD-PLEASING LIFE**

This does not mean believers never sin. The believer, as a new creature, continues to struggle against the flesh, which continues to war against the spirit and causes a life in conflict; imperfect in performance in contrast to his new character. However, believers who do sin do not form a distinctive group identifiable as "carnal (fleshly) Christians" as set apart from non-carnal Christians. No doubt, all Christians commit acts of carnality. Sinful conduct finds its source in the flesh.

*I Corinthians 3:3 "For you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?"*

*I Peter 2:11 "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul."*

*II Peter 2:18 "For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,"*

These individuals can be said to be guilty of carnality or acting according to the flesh. Correspondingly, all believers are disciples by virtue of their relationship with Jesus Christ. *Acts 11:26* records the beginning of the term "Christian" as being applied to followers (disciples) of Jesus.

*Acts 11:26 "And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."*

## **REGENERATION**

Regeneration is the spiritual change wrought in man by the Holy Spirit by which man becomes the possessor of a new life.

*Titus 3:5 "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

It is distinguished from justification because justification is a change in our relationship to God, while regeneration is a change in our moral and spiritual nature.

*II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."*

*Ephesians 4:22-24 "That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."*

Regeneration is represented in the Scriptures by such terms as “born again” and “born of God”.

*John 3:3-13 “Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?' Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus answered and said to Him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak that which we know, and bear witness of that which we have seen; and you do not receive our witness. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things? And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.'”*

*I John 3:9 “No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”*

*I John 4:7 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God”*

Because the work of regeneration is accomplished by the Holy Spirit at the time a person places his trust in Christ, there is then no grounds for the outward work of baptism to be connected with regeneration.

## **NOURISHMENT**

The wisdom of the world, which is presented by various disciplines of secular study that purport to explain certain human behavior, is inadequate and positions itself against the revelation of God. Allowing for organic and mental developmental factors, all believers are responsible for their own actions. The idea of two “minds” (conscious and the sub-conscious) is not found in the scriptures. The motivation for our moral conduct and conduct based on our values is seated in the consciousness alone. Motivation for actions that spring from a hidden source, causing irresponsible and uncontrollable action, is rejected as unbiblical.

*I Corinthians 1:21, 26-27 “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong”*

*I Corinthians 4:5 “Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.”*

## **IMPERFECT**

The regeneration work of providing new life is effective and always produces a change in the person who receives that new life.

*I Thessalonians 5:23 “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

*Philippians 3:12 “Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.”*

## **BODY OF CHRIST**

The Church is the manifestation of the Body of Christ on earth. The Church is the only agency so recognized as the body of Christ. The local church is her only manifestation.

*Ephesians 1:22-23 "And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."*

Ministries labeled "para-church" (campus ministries, mission boards, family ministries, etc.) are therefore required to follow all doctrinal guidelines given to the church in the Scriptures whenever possible.

## **SPIRITUAL ORGANISM**

There is a complete and separate distinction between the Church as a "people of God" and Israel. The Church and Israel have separate promises and are distinguishable throughout all ages. The Scripture from

*Genesis 12:1 "Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you'"*

through the Gospels deals with Israel as God's chosen earthly nation; in Acts 2 through Revelation 3:22 the focus is on the Church (people from all nations) as people of God; in Revelation 4:19 the focus again is on Israel, the Church having been removed at the rapture.

*Daniel 9:24-27 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place. So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."*

*Galatians 3:17-18 "What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise."*

Please note also Romans 9:11

## **LOCAL CHURCH**

The elder leadership of the local church is entrusted to qualified men of the Body. They have the responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the Body.

*Acts 20:28-30 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them."*

*I Timothy 3:1-7 "It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household,*

*how will he take care of the church of God?); And not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."*

Please note Titus 1:5-16 also.

## **INSTRUCTION**

The teaching duties are given to qualified men of the church except as prescribed in

*Titus 2:3-4 "Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children"*

*Romans 12:6-7 "And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; If service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching"*

## **BELIEVER'S BAPTISM**

The theological meaning of baptism is an act of association with or identification with someone, some group or some message. An example would be the baptism of John the Baptist who baptized those who agreed with his message. Some of those later wished to be identified with Christ.

*John 1:19-28 "And this is the witness of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' And he confessed, and did not deny, and he confessed, 'I am not the Christ.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' And he said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' And he answered, 'No.' they said then to him, 'Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord," as Isaiah the prophet said.' Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said to him, 'why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?' John answered them saying, 'I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.' These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing."*

*Acts 19:1-5 "And it came about that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found some disciples, and he said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' And they said to him, 'No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' And he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' And they said, 'Into John's baptism.' and Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.' And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."*

To be baptized into Moses involved identification with his leadership of the exodus from Egypt.

*I Corinthians 10:2 "And all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;"*

For the Christian, baptism means identification with the message of the Gospel, the person of the Savior. The examples we have in the New Testament indicate that believers were baptized right after they believed.

*Acts 2:41 "So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls."*

*Acts 8:36-38 "And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?' And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' and he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him."*

The Greek word baptize unquestionably refers to immersion. The Greek words for sprinkling and pouring are never



used in conjunction with baptism. Immersion also best pictures the death of the old and resurrection to the new life.

*Romans 6:1-4 "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."*

It is for these reasons that it is the policy and practice of Grace Bible Church to baptize by means of immersion those who confess and exemplify a belief in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Believer's baptism requires a responsible decision and is usually delayed until the age of discretion is reached.

### **FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS**

When open sin occurs in the church, the church must deal with the sin in ways prescribed in Matthew 18. The discipline of the members insures the purity of the Body and provides for the restoration of the erring member.

*I Corinthians 5:1-8 "It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. And you have become arrogant, and have not mourned instead, in order that the one who had done this deed might be removed from your midst. For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? Clean out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."*

*II Corinthians 2:6-8 "Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, So that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him."*

### **PREMILLENNIAL RETURN**

The next event on the prophetic clock is the pre-tribulational rapture of the Church (I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11) following which the western world ruler (Daniel 9:27 and II Thessalonians 2:1-12) will enter into an agreement to guarantee Israel's sovereignty in its land. This agreement begins the seventieth week of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-26) During this time of seven years, known as the tribulation, the wrath of God will be released against Israel and the nations in the judgments of seals, trumpets, and bowls. (Revelation 5 - 16). Following the final bowl judgment, Jesus Christ will return to earth (II Thessalonians 1:6-10, Revelation 19:11-16) to judge the nations (Matthew 25:31-46) and set up His kingdom first of all promised to David. The one thousand year earthly kingdom is the first phase of the eternal kingdom that will be everlasting, (II Samuel 7:13, 16).

# BYLAWS

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GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

## **PREAMBLE**

Whereas, the Word of God demands that a Christian organization not only conform to the Word of God in doctrine and practice (*Psalm 119:105; Galatians 1:6-8; II Timothy 4:1-5*), but that all things be done decently and in order (*I Corinthians 14:40*).

Therefore, we, the members of Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson, set forth in this the BYLAWS by which our congregational affairs, spiritual and material, shall be conducted.

### **Section 1. Church Membership**

#### **1. Purpose of Membership**

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27*

*“Having come together for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12*

*“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” Romans 12:5*

*“Subject to Jesus Christ, whom God has appointed to be head over everything for the Church, which is His body.” Ephesians 1:22-23*

#### **2. Membership**

Active membership in Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson is open to anyone upon confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and showing a willingness to abide by our Bylaws and Doctrinal Statement.

#### **3. Responsibilities of Members**

As members in the family of God (*Ephesians 3:15*), and heirs together of the grace of life (*1 Peter 3:7*), we believe that we are to love one another (*I Thessalonians 4:9*), to bear one another's burdens (*Galatians. 6:2*), and to exhort one another to love and to do good works (*Hebrews 10:24-25*). Therefore we believe that all members should attend as regularly as possible all regular services and all meetings arranged by the church. They should maintain the spiritual life of their own family, bringing their children to Sunday School and worship services, encouraging them to attend other church activities. Members should encourage and assist their children toward a faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Members are to make a conscientious use of the means of grace (the Word of God, prayer and the church ordinances). All members shall seek to exercise their spiritual gifts for the mutual benefit of all the church body and shall submit to the loving rule of the Elders.

Members are to make a conscientious effort to ensure their life reflects the elders' understanding of GBC's doctrinal statement and bylaws.

#### **4. Voting Privileges**

Membership in this church shall not vest in any member any proprietary rights in the Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson Corporation. Members may be asked to vote at meetings on matters submitted to the church membership by the Board of Elders. Voting privileges are restricted to members that have passed their sixteenth (16) birthday. Votes by the membership of GBC are not binding on decisions made by the Elders of GBC.

## **5. Application for Membership**

All requests for membership will be made to a Pastor or Elder. A copy of the membership application, Doctrinal Statement and Bylaws will be given to each applicant. The Board of Elders will meet with the applicant following the receipt and evaluation of the application. Upon approval of the prospective membership applicant by the Board of Elders, the new member will be received before the assembled congregation by announcement.

## **6. Denial of Membership**

If, upon review of an application for membership or after meeting with a prospective member, the Board of Elders determines that the applicant does not meet the standards for membership as set forth within the Bylaws and Doctrinal Statement of Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson, membership will be denied. The decision made by the Board of Elders shall be final and there shall be no appeal of that decision.

## **7. Removal of Membership**

Any member of this church who shall willfully, without plausible reason or excuse, absent himself from the services of this church for a period of six months may be removed at the discretion of the Board of Elders, with written notification prior to dismissal.

Any member in good standing, according to the Board of Elders, with GBC may remove their membership for any reason with a letter of recession addressed to the Board of Elders. Any member seeking to rescind membership that is not in good standing as viewed by the GBC elders may not be allowed to rescind membership. Any member involved as an offender in a church discipline situation may not be allowed to rescind membership. Involuntary removal of membership may be the result of church discipline as outlined in Section 4.

## **Section 2. Baptism**

Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson will practice baptism by immersion to each person whose outward testimony confirms an inward spiritual transformation, indicating salvation by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson will recognize as valid any regular form of believer's water baptism if it is in agreement with the considered conviction of the individual believer. This will in no way alter the practice of Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson, but will eliminate a need for rebaptism only for purposes of conformity. Neither membership in Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson nor salvation is dependent on baptism. The Board of Elders of Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson will determine a course of study for all baptismal candidates which must be completed before they are baptized. This course will be taught by the pastor or an acceptable substitute as determined by the Board of Elders. The pastor of Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson shall preside at all baptisms unless necessity shall require the Board of Elders to appoint an acceptable substitute. All baptismal candidates shall apply to the Board of Elders for admissibility to baptism.

## **Section 3. The Lord's Supper**

Observance of the Lord's Supper will take place as outlined in the Doctrinal Statement of Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson. Scheduling, organization and execution of the service will be a responsibility of the Board of Elders. All regenerate members and guests, having examined themselves as instructed in *1 Corinthians 11:27-28*, are encouraged to participate.

## Section 4. Church Discipline

When a member or regular attendee is found guilty of any sin which is unrepentant as defined by the Board of Elders, or affects the spiritual well-being of the church, or fails to meet the conditions outlined under qualifications for membership, he or she is subject to the church disciplinary process as described below:

1. The discipline process shall be carried out in accordance with the principles of *Matthew 18:15-17*.
  - 1) If possible, the offended party confronts the offending party. If no reconciliation, the next step will be taken.
  - 2) The offended party makes the elders aware of the situation.
  - 3) If possible, the elders confront the offender and plead for repentance and restoration, in person or via correspondence.
  - 4) If not fruits of repentance are evidenced, as understood by the elders of GBC, the situation, sins, and identity of the offender may be shared with all attendees of GBC in hopes of restoration.
  - 5) Membership of the offender may be removed at the discretion of the Board of Elders as a result of the church discipline process.
2. The goal of all discipline shall be to restore the individual to a right relationship with Christ, manifest in the observed fruits of repentance, and to fellowship and active membership in the church. Such efforts shall be made in light of the following Scriptures: *Galatians 6:1-2*; *II Thessalonians 3:14-15*; *Hebrews 10:24-25*; and *James 5:19-20*. Restoration to fellowship upon due repentance, restitution, and reconciliation, where necessary, will be granted by the Board of Elders.

## Section 5. Pastors

1. Pastors must give evidence of the call of God to the ministry of the Gospel.
2. All pastors must fulfill the qualifications as listed in *I Timothy 3:1-13* and *Titus 1:5-9*.
3. All pastors must signify in writing in their elder / staff application their willingness to abide by the Bylaws and Doctrinal Statement of this Church and indicate in writing to the elders any different doctrinal positions they hold. (review Elder / Staff Application)

### Duties

According to *Ephesians 4:11-12*, God has given pastors "*for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, for the building up of the body of Christ*". (*I Peter 5:1-4*).

1. General duties of the Pastoral staff shall include the functions of shepherds to the church membership. All the duties of shepherding as taught in the Scriptures are to be carried out by the Pastoral staff in cooperation with the Elders.
2. The Senior Pastor shall be responsible for carrying out the church's ministry under the Board's adopted doctrines, policies, procedures and budget. He shall carry on the church ministry according to *Ephesians 4* with the assistance of the Pastoral and support staff he shall assemble (*II Timothy 1:14-15; 2:2*).
3. Marriage (performing weddings) ceremonies shall be conducted by Pastoral staff or approved visiting pastors. However, all ceremonies must include a member of the Pastoral staff.

## **Selection of Pastoral Staff**

1. The Board of Elders will search out and screen all candidates, keeping the congregation informed of its progress.
2. Unanimous consent of the Elders is needed to invite a candidate for “in person” contact with the Elders, Deacons and the congregation.
3. When the conditions in steps 1 and 2 have been met, voting members at a properly called Membership meeting will be asked to affirm the candidate.
4. Unanimous approval from the Elders is required to call a candidate to any position of Pastor.

## **Term of Office**

1. A Pastor’s term of office shall be indefinite.
2. A pastor may be dismissed by the unanimous decision of the Elders.
3. When there is a reason to remove a Pastor that is also a member of the Elder Board, the Board of Elders shall be unanimous, not including the Pastor in question, in regards to dismissal.

## **Pastoral Interns**

1. Pastoral Interns shall give evidence of a desire to be in gospel ministry, and evidence of pursuing the character qualifications of *I Timothy 3:1-13* and *Titus 1:5-9*.
2. The Board of Elders will search out and screen all candidates, informing the congregation as candidates are approved at the next business meeting.
3. Pastoral interns shall perform duties similar to the pastoral staff and be supervised in their ministry and character by the board of elders or designees by the board of elders.
4. Once approved by the board of elders as an intern, the compensation (if any) and requirements of the position will be determined by the elder board. Each intern's responsibilities will be determined on an individual basis.

## **Section 6. Board of Elders and Church Officers**

### **A. General**

The Board of Elders shall lead by serving the church. Its primary responsibilities are shepherding the flock, teaching the Word, caring for its spiritual welfare, overseeing the administration of the church and discipling future leaders. The Board may delegate certain responsibilities to the Pastors, Deacons, Ministry Heads, or individual member of the church.

## B. Selection of Elders

1. Any man selected as an Elder shall be a member of the Church and be recognized for his spirituality, for his leadership, and his faithfulness to the teaching of God's Word, and shall meet the qualifications outlined in *I Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:5-9*.
  - a. Blameless (above reproach) as a steward of God *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7*
  - b. Husband of one wife (a one-woman man) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6*
  - c. Temperate (sober, vigilant) *I Timothy 3:2*
  - d. Sober-minded (prudent) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8*
  - e. Of good behavior (orderly, respectable) *I Timothy 3:2*
  - f. Given to hospitality (lover of strangers, open home) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8*
  - g. Apt to teach (able to teach, exhort believers and refute false teaching ) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9*
  - h. Not given to wine *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
  - i. Not violent (pugnacious) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
  - j. Patient (moderate, forbearing, gentle) *I Timothy 3:3*
  - k. Not a brawler (not contentious, not soon angry, or quick tempered) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
  - l. Not covetous (not a lover of money or greedy) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
  - m. Rules his own house well (his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion to God) *I Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6*
  - n. Not a novice (not a new convert) *I Timothy 3:6*
  - o. Has a good report or reputation with outsiders *I Timothy 3:7*
  - p. Not self-willed *Titus 1:7*
  - q. A lover of good (men and things) *Titus 1:8*
  - r. Just (fair) *Titus 1:8*
  - s. Holy (devout) *Titus 1:8*
  - t. Self-controlled *Titus 1:8*
2. His moral and private conduct shall honor the name of God, His Son and the Holy Spirit.
3. He must be in agreement with the Church Doctrinal Statement and abide by the Bylaws.

4. The Elders shall select candidates from the membership of the church and approve them by unanimous vote of the Elder Board. Each candidate tentatively approved will be interviewed by the Elders to confirm his willingness and qualifications to serve as an Elder. A written application will then be submitted to the Elders. Candidates approved by the Elders will be presented for affirmation at a called Business meeting. Their names will be published prior to the meeting, during which time the congregation is encouraged to respond to an Elder regarding the candidate's qualification of Eldership. The final decision regarding the candidacy will be announced on the following Sunday.
5. The Senior Pastor, because of his position, shall automatically be a member of the Elder Board and serve as an Elder as long as he is Senior Pastor.
6. Regardless of how many members of the staff serve as duly elected Elders, for the purposes of voting, the Staff shall have one vote on all issues, that vote being the Senior Pastor's. In the event there is no permanent Senior Pastor, his vote may be granted to an Elder, who is a member of the staff, who has been designated by the remaining non-staff Elders. This policy will in no other way detract from the duties, responsibilities and respect entitled to all Elders.

### **C. Elders Term of Service**

1. Elders, except for Staff Elders, shall serve for three year terms unless terminated by resignation, or dismissal.

### **D. Removal of Elders from Office**

1. The procedures described in *I Timothy 5:19-20* and *Matthew 18:15-17* regarding church discipline shall be followed as for any person in the body of Christ, including Elders, with the objective of restoration to the body.
2. If restoration is not achieved by the procedure described in paragraph 1 above, any two members may bring the issue before the Board of Elders, who will hear the Elder who may be subject to discipline, in accordance with the prescriptions of *I Timothy 5:19-20*.
3. After hearing the issue, the Board of Elders will decide what action is required.
4. When there is a reason to remove the Elder from the Board, the Board of Elders shall be unanimous, not including the Elder in question, following the same procedures as used for selection.
5. The Chairman of the Board of Elders will advise the disciplined Elder of his removal from the Board of Elders both in person, when practical, and in writing, and also advise the church congregation.
6. When the issue that required the Elder's removal has been properly resolved and the restoration process is complete, the former Elder may be eligible to return to the Board of Elders following the process for selection of Elders.

### **D. Board of Elders Composition**

The Board of Elders shall be composed of the Senior Pastor, pastoral staff, and other biblically qualified individuals, appointed by the Holy Spirit, *Acts 20:28*.



## **E. Elder Board of Officers**

1. The Board of Elders shall select the following officers of the incumbent Elders for a one year term:
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Secretary

The foregoing officers shall be selected from the Board of Elders and may succeed themselves. The election of officers shall be held the first meeting after the annual Business Meeting. The officers of the Elders shall be announced in the church bulletin.

2. The Board of Elders shall select from the church membership the Church Treasurer.
4. Officers of the Board of Elders shall act as officers of the corporation and of the church membership.

## **F. Responsibilities of the Officers**

### 1. The Chairman's Duties

- a. Act as President of the Corporation
- b. Execute all resolutions of the Board of Elders.
- c. Ensure communication of decisions of the Board of Elders that are of general interest to the congregation.

### 2. The Secretary's Duties

- a. Keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Elders and have copies sent to all Elders.
- b. Serve as Secretary of the Corporation and keep minutes of all church Business Meetings and have charge and custody of the minute book of the Corporation.
- c. Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders or the Chairman.
- d. Affix his signature to all instruments in writing requiring the signature of the Secretary.
- e. Have custody of the official seal of the church and affix it as required. (this is in the office)

### 3. The Treasurer's Duties

- a. Supervise and maintain the safe-keeping of corporation funds and securities.
- b. Keep a full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in church ledgers.
- c. Oversee the deposit of monies and other valuable effects in name and to the credit of the Corporation in such depository as shall be designated by the Board of Elders.
- d. Disburse the funds of the church as ordered by the Board of Elders or its delegate.

- e. Render to the Board of Elders for each calendar month an account of all his transactions as Treasurer, updating the current financial condition of the church.
- f. Submit for audit each calendar year, an account of all his transactions as Treasurer, and the current financial records of the church.

## **G. Conduct of Board of Elders Meetings**

1. The Board of Elders shall meet regularly and at such times as the Elders shall select. The Elders shall call additional meetings as warranted by the business or needs of the church.
2. Sixty percent of incumbent Elders, including the Pastor, shall constitute a quorum.

## **Section 7. Deacons**

### **A. General**

The Deacons shall serve the Church by assisting the Board of Elders. The authority and responsibility of the Deacons shall be set forth in guidelines established by the Elders.

### **B. Selection of Deacons**

1. Candidates for the office of Deacon shall be nominated from the church membership by the Board of Elders and recognized for their spirituality, their faithfulness, their leadership, their genuine desire and willingness to serve in church ministries, and their individual adherence to Biblical qualifications described in the Scriptures.
  - a. Blameless (above reproach) as a steward of God *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7*
  - b. Husband of one wife (a one-woman man) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6*
  - c. Temperate (sober, vigilant) *I Timothy 3:2*
  - d. Sober-minded (prudent) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8*
  - e. Of good behavior (orderly, respectable) *I Timothy 3:2*
  - f. Given to hospitality (lovers of strangers, open home) *I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8*
  - g. Not given to wine *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
  - h. Not violent (pugnacious) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
  - i. Patient (moderate, forbearing, gentle) *I Timothy 3:3*
  - j. Not a brawler (not contentious, soon angry, or quick tempered) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*
  - k. Not covetous (not a lover of money or greedy) *I Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7*

- l. Rules well his own house (his children are faithful and not accused of rebellion to God)  
*I Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6*
  - m. Not a novice (not a new convert) *I Timothy 3:7*
  - n. Has a good report or reputation with outsiders *I Timothy 3:7*
  - o. Not self-willed *Titus 1:7*
  - p. A lover of good (men and things) *Titus 1:8*
  - q. Just (fair) *Titus 1:8*
  - r. Holy (devout) *Titus 1:8*
  - s. Self-controlled *Titus 1:8*
2. His moral and private conduct shall honor the name of God, His Son and the Holy Spirit.
  3. He must be an active member of the church and subscribe to the church Doctrinal Statement and abide by the Bylaws.
  4. He shall be approved by the Elders, submit a Deacon Application, and then be affirmed by the Elders.

### **C. Deacons Term of Office**

1. A Deacon shall serve an annual term and be annually reviewed by the Elders.
2. A Deacon shall be dismissed in accordance with the same procedure as used for Elders.
3. Deacons who have served their full term are eligible to be reappointed to additional terms by the Board of Elders.

### **Section 8. Associations**

This church shall not at any time become a member of any denomination, ecclesiastical or ecumenical movement.

### **Section 9. Annual Meeting**

A business meeting will be held in January of each year. The date and time will be at the discretion of the Board of Elders. Notification of the time, place and tentative agenda will precede the meeting by at least fourteen (14) calendar days. Notification requires publication in church media and verbal announcement in weekly services. Business to be conducted will include affirmation of the leadership appointments, budget review, and a report of the year's ministry from the Board of Elders. Other business may be brought before the congregation at the discretion of the Board of Elders.

## **Section 10. Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders. Notification of the time, place and tentative agenda will be announced prior to the meeting.

## **Section 11. Amending Bylaws**

These bylaws shall be amended at any time by the unanimous vote of the Elders.

## **Section 12. Dissolution**

Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Elders shall cause the assets herein to be distributed to another corporation with similar purposes to that of Grace Bible Church of Hutchinson.

## **Section 12. Sexuality and Marriage**

We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

## **Section 13. Support Staff**

Any non-contract, part-time, or full-time support staff employee of Grace Bible Church:

1. Must agree not to participate in or represent any idea or activity that is contrary to the elders' understanding of GBC's doctrinal statement and bylaws. Both while actively representing Grace Bible Church in their employment duties and in their personal life.
2. Shall be a member in good standing, as determined by the Board of Elders. If the employee is not in good standing, they may be terminated from employment regardless of professional competency.