



“...striving together
for the faith of the
gospel.”

Philippians 1:27

Statement of Faith

2012

A Summary of Doctrinal Beliefs
Grace Bible Baptist Church

CONTENTS



1. Bibliology - The Doctrine Of The Bible.....	3
2. Theology Proper – The Doctrine Of The Godhead.....	4
3. Christology – The Doctrine Of Jesus Christ.....	4
4. Pneumatology – The Doctrine Of The Holy Spirit.....	4
5. Angelology – The Doctrine Of Angels.....	5
6. Anthropology – The Doctrine Of Man.....	5
7. Soteriology – The Doctrine Of Salvation.....	7
8. Ecclesiology – The Doctrine Of The Church.....	9
9. Eschatology – The Doctrine Of Future Things.....	11

1 Timothy 3:15

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

Statement of Faith

A Summary of Doctrinal Beliefs

We believe the Holy Bible to be the only authority for all faith and practice and the standard by which we can know the truth. We therefore endeavour to live by faith in God's Word and practice what we are taught as Bible-believing Christians. Herein is a brief summary of our faith in a subject format – *2 Timothy 3:15-17*

BIBLIOLOGY - THE DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE

We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament from Genesis to Revelation: thirty-nine books in the Old Testament and twenty-seven books in the New Testament.

We believe that God moved Holy Men to pen down His Words, and that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. The Scriptures should be interpreted literally (whenever possible), consistently, contextually, grammatically, dispensationally, culturally and historically. - *2 Peter 1:19-21*

We believe in the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God, and that the Scriptures are without error, infallible and God-breathed, and therefore are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. The Word of God is the final authority for faith and practice and no new revelation is needed or accepted. - *2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:89; Revelation 22:18-19*

We furthermore believe the translation of the Authorized King James Version of the Bible (from the O.T Masoretic Text & N.T Textus Receptus Text) is the preserved Word of God in the English language. We believe that God is able to preserve His Word. We believe that no man ought to add or take away from God's Word. - *Proverbs 30:5-6; 2 Timothy 2:9; Psalm 119:60*

We will provide, use, support and carry out the KJV Bible in all our ministries. *2 Samuel 23:2; Joshua 1:8; Psalms 12:67; 19:714;*

THEOLOGY PROPER – THE DOCTRINE OF THE GODHEAD

We believe in one God who is eternal (always was and always will be). We believe that God is the beginning of all things and the Creator of all things. God created the universe by the power of His Word. - *Genesis 1:1-3, Psalm 90:1-2, Proverbs 8:22*

We believe that God is one in essence and nature and yet composed of three persons; thus there is only one true God but, in the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – who are equal and carry out separate but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. *Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 1:8; Exodus 20:2-3; Genesis 17:1; 2 Corinthians 3:17;*

CHRISTOLOGY – THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is the second Person of the Triune God and therefore He has always been and was never created. He is the Eternal God, The Creator, one with God the Father and God the Holy Ghost. *John 1:1-3, 14; Colossians 1:12-22; Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 1:8*

Without giving up His deity, He became man by the miracle of the virgin birth in that He was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, a virgin, and He lived a sinless life. *Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25*

As the perfect Lamb of God, He submitted Himself to the will of the Father, and gave Himself to die upon the cross; He arose again the third day (bodily) and ascended into Heaven where He is our High Priest and advocate with the Father. *Philippians 2:6-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Luke 24:2-8, 51; 1 John 2:1-2; Hebrews 1:8; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Timothy 3:16*

PNEUMATOLOGY – THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit — We believe that the Holy Spirit is the divine third person of the Godhead, with the Father and the Son, co-equal and co-eternal. He was active from the beginning of creation. The Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment; and He indwells and seals all who become children of God through Christ. He is one of the agents in the new birth; is the infallible interpreter of the Word of God; and He indwells seals, empowers, guides, comforts, aids, teaches witnesses, sanctifies, and helps and fills the believers daily as they yield and surrender to Him. He is ever-present to testify of Christ, and those who worship God must worship God “in Spirit and in Truth.” *John 16:8-15; 14:16, 17; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13*

Spiritual Gifts — We believe the Spiritual gifts of tongues, healing, raising the dead, and casting out devils were "sign-gifts" confirming the truth of God's Word which the apostles were preaching. Biblical Tongues within the New Testament era was first presented and known as spoken languages; each one heard the Word of God in his native tongue. Once the Scriptures were complete from Matthew to Revelation (The New Testament) the confirming signs were no longer necessary and thus ended.

Mark 16:15-20; Luke 16:27-31; Acts 2: 4-13; 1 Corinthians 13:8, 14:21, 22

The Charismatic Movement — We believe the current Charismatic/Pentecostal Movement is not a Biblical movement. The sign gifts that have ceased such as diverse tongues, healing by the laying of hands, and raising the dead are a counterfeit and are of another spirit. The contemporary Christian music does not portray a holy worship because it incorporates fleshly/worldly musical elements. *2 Corinthians 11, Galatians 1*

ANGELOLOGY – THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS

Holy Angels — We believe that God created a host of angelic beings. Their ministry to the Christian is to protect and to guide. *Psalms 148:1-5; Hebrews 1:13, 14; Psalm 91:10-12; Acts 27:23; 24; Luke 16:22*

Satan — We believe that Satan is a created angel; he is the arch deceiver and the father of all lies. We believe in the personality of Satan; that he was an exalted angel, lifted up in pride who rebelled against God; that he is now the unholy god of this age and is destined for eternal punishment in the lake of fire. We believe that Satan led 1/3 of the angels in his rebellion against God who are now the demons, which assist him in his efforts to destroy that which is godly. *Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:13-15; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10; Revelation 12:4; Ephesians 6:12*

ANTHROPOLOGY – THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

Creation — We believe the Genesis account of creation as being neither allegory nor myth, God personally created the heaven and the earth in six 24-hour days, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore concerning creation the evolutionary theory is totally inconsistent with God's Word. God formed man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became immediately a living soul. He created man in the image and likeness of Himself. All of mankind are descendants of the historical Adam and Eve. *Genesis 1&2; Psalm 19:1-6; John 1:3; Romans 1:20; Genesis 2:25; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3.*

Fall — We believe Adam and Eve wilfully disobeyed God and as a result of their rebellion they brought about the curse of death and the ruin of the entire human race, which brought spiritual, physical, and eternal death upon all. *Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:12-19; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23a; Romans 6:23*

Family — We believe that God ordained marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that the family is a man and a woman covenanted together for life and that God has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of marital intimacy.

We believe that God gives the responsibility to the parents to train their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This includes the children's education.

Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; Genesis 2:1-25; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127 & 128; Ephesians 6:1-4.

Abortion — We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, inexcusable taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. - *Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44.*

Suicide and Euthanasia — We believe that God alone, the Divine Creator, has the right to terminate life. Every man has an appointed time with death and judgement before God. Therefore no individual has the right to terminate either his or her own life or the life of another. Any form of mercy killing or assistance to another in death, no matter the circumstances is contrary to God's Will as the giver of life. *Exodus 20:13; Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 3; 7:17; Psalm 90:10-12.*

Civil Government — We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for and obeyed (except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ); that the church and state are to be separate (no state established church), each having definite and distinct areas of responsibility. Neither the church nor the state has the right to infringe upon the God-ordained responsibilities of the other. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. - *Matthew 18:15-17; 22:21;*

1 Corinthians 6:18; Ephesians 4:31,32; Romans 13:1-7; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21, 22; Acts 5:29, 4:19, 20; Daniel 3:17, 18

SOTERIOLOGY – THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

The Gospel — We believe the Gospel is the personal and visible death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe Jesus' death made a full payment for our sin; His voluntary substitution in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, bearing our sin in His own body on the Cross. There could be NO salvation without His death through the shedding of His blood to cover our sin. Salvation is found in the finished work of the Lord Jesus on the Cross, and He is the only way to God the Father. On the third day after Jesus' death he rose again, victoriously conquering death and giving the believer the hope of their resurrection from the dead. *1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Romans 6-8; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:24-27; Romans 3:24, 25; Hebrews 2:14, 9:22; Isaiah 53; 1 Peter 1:18-21, 2:24; 1 John 1:7-9*

Salvation by Grace — We believe that all of humanity is sinful and are unable to save themselves from the judgment to come, and so therefore are in great need of salvation. Salvation is a free gift from God because of His perfect love and amazing grace offered to unworthy sinners. God's grace cannot be merited or earned in any way by human efforts, works or religion; and therefore is wholly by grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9

We believe that **remission** (forgiveness) of sins is only received through and because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Salvation is received by the placing of one's faith (trust) in the Lord Jesus Christ. *Hebrews 9:22-24*

Salvation involves **atonement** ("to cover over"), which deals with the covering and removal of our sin. Salvation involves our being purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ and being set free from the power of sin. Salvation involves the believer being **justified** before God through Christ. God declares the believing sinner to be righteous and acceptable before Him because Christ has borne the sinner's sin on the cross, and has been made unto him righteousness. *Romans 5:8-11*

We believe salvation is available to all; Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world. "For **whosoever shall call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." God created man as a responsible being, and he has a free-will to choose to accept/believe or reject/not believe the grace of God once revealed to that person. "God is not willing that any should perish" but that all come to repentance and to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:13; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2, John 3:16

Heaven and Hell — We believe in the literal reality of Heaven and Hell. People who have trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour are blood-bought and will be with the Lord in Heaven. At death, a believer immediately is with Christ in Heaven where his works are brought before the Judgment Seat of Christ for the determination of rewards which will take place at the time when Christ comes for His own. *Matthew 25:31-33, 41, 46*

The unbelievers that choose to reject Jesus Christ will be judged for their sin and perish in Hell. At death the spirits of the unsaved descend immediately into Hades (hell) where they are kept in fiery punishment until the final Day of Judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, and they shall be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire, the place of final and everlasting fiery punishment. *Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; Mark 9:42-48; John 14:1-6; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:8-10; 1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 20:11-15*

Repentance — We believe that repentance is a change of mind/heart and purpose from sin toward God; that it is characterized by godly sorrow for sin, and that true repentance is inseparably related to true faith. It is to turn from sin/idols/religion, etc to the living God through Jesus Christ by Faith alone. - *Acts 20:21, Mark 1:15; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Isaiah 55:6-7*

New Birth — We believe that salvation is a spiritual birth whereby one enters the family of God and becomes partaker of God's nature. The Holy Spirit indwells the believer, and they are adopted into God's family. *John 3:1-8, 1:12, 13; Ephesians 3:15; 1 John 2:29, 3:9, 4:7, 5:1, 4, 18; 2 Peter 1:4, Titus 3:5*

Reconciliation — We believe that salvation involves the restoration of the believer's relationship with God. *Romans 5:9, 10; Colossians 1:21-23*

Eternal Security — We believe that those who are truly saved are kept by the power of God, and sealed by the spirit of God, therefore making it impossible to be lost once saved. The Salvation which God bestows on a person is perfect and complete; saved from the penalty of sin, power of sin, and, one day, the very presence of sin. Jesus said "It is finished." - *1 Peter 1:3-5; Ephesians 4:30; John 10:28-30; Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 1:13; 1 John 5:11-13; Ecclesiastes 4:13*

Sanctification/Separation — We believe sanctification has to do with holiness or separation from sin unto God. The believer ought to continue to walk in the Spirit to grow in grace for God's glory. Therefore, we should live according to biblical principles that are grounded in the Word of God, and have godly standards to help keep our

convictions that are derived from God's Word. The body of the believer is the temple of the Holy Ghost therefore we must keep it holy by abstaining from every evil way, refrain from participating in worldly sinful practices, hobbies, and abusing our liberty that will cause another person to stumble. We need to abstain from anything else that will hinder our testimony and leave us powerless as a child of God. We are to separate from any fellowship with false teachers, false prophets, philosophies, world ecumenical movement and religious system. Our responsibility is to live circumspectly: denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Ecclesiastical separation is a vigilant devotion to holiness in all matters related to the church faith and practice. *Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Corinthians 6:11, 18-19; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 15:51-54; Ephesians 4:30;*

Priesthood of the Believers — We believe that through Jesus Christ — the Mediator — every believer has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest and that every believer has the right and responsibility to study the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit. *Hebrews 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:9*

ECCLESIOLOGY – THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

The Church — We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that the church is the pillar and ground of truth. The church of God is a living, organized assembly of saved, baptized believers meeting in the name of Jesus Christ for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching, the practice of the ordinances (baptism and the Lord supper), and the fulfilment of the Great Commission. It is also to exhort one another until the coming of Christ. *Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42*

This assembly is independent and free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference and is accountable directly to its Head (Jesus Christ) who has appointed an under-Shepherd to lead the flock by the Word of God. *Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-4*

The church is a local assembly likened to a body. Each member of the body is given at least one spiritual gift for the edification of the body of Christ. The church is financially supported by the general offering (which is to be the tithes) of God's people and free will offerings. *1 Corinthians 11:2; 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8 & 9; Matthew 18:15-17; Acts 15; Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Romans 12:1-8; Ephesians 3:15; Ephesians 5:23; 1 Timothy 3:15; Acts 1:8*

The Members — Who can become a member of a local church? All who are saved by grace through faith, scripturally baptised by immersion, and give a good profession of faith/testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. A believer must be faithful to one local church assembly, and have a desire to be involved in the life of the church, serving the Lord with the God-given gifts and submitting to God-given authority. *Acts 9:27; Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 13:7, 17*

Other admission into Membership to a local church is upon profession of faith; letter of transfer from another Church of like faith; and upon restoration. After someone has been excluded from membership for discipline and subsequently repented of sin he or she should be restored again to the body of believers.

Members may be dismissed by transfer to another church of like faith, church discipline, or by death. Church discipline, when needed, will be carried-out within the commands and guidelines of the Word of God.

All Church discipline has the ultimate goal of restoration at a later time. It is practiced in order to correct sin and to protect the flock of God. The Pastor has been given a charge by God to oversee and protect God's people. After sin is confessed, the person disciplined can be restored to membership. Every effort must be made to restore a person back into fellowship again, if at all possible. *1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Matthew 18:15-17; 2 Corinthians 13:10; Galatians 6:1-2; Romans 16:1-2; Galatians 6:1-2; Acts 2:41-47*

Pastors and Deacons — We believe that God established the offices of the church for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and the edifying of the body of Christ. They are also to protect the flock from error/false doctrine.

The office of pastor (terms bishop, elder, pastor are used interchangeably) designates the overseer who provides spiritual leadership to the church. He is to feed God's flock, teach and equip them and watch over them, and he must also give an account to the Great Shepherd. The Pastor is a man who is called by God and must meet the qualifications as set out in Scripture. *1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-3; Hebrews 13:7,17; Acts 20:28*

A deacon is to be chosen from amongst the church. He must have a good, honest testimony both from within and without the Church. He must be a man of wisdom and full of the Holy Spirit. He must also meet the qualifications as stated in Scripture. *1 Timothy 3:8-13*

The office of deacon designates men who are yielded to serving the church in ways that enable the pastor to be more effective in the ministry of the Word of God through preaching, teaching and praying. I also recognize the office of the Evangelist whose focus is the preaching of the gospel and the edification of the local church.

Philippians 1:1; Acts 20:17, 28; Titus 1:5-7; I Peter 5:1-4; Acts 6:1-7; Hebrews 13:7,17; Ephesians 4:11-12

Baptism and Lord's Supper — We believe that only two ordinances were given to the church — baptism and the Lord's Supper. The baptism is by immersion of a believer in water under the authority of a New Testament church, portraying the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ observed by the church and should be preceded by solemn self-examination. 'Unleavened Bread' and 'Pure Grape Juice' should be used picturing the spotless and pure body & blood of Christ that was broken and shed for our sin. *Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34*

ESCHATOLOGY – THE DOCTRINE OF FUTURE THINGS

Rapture — We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is coming again, bodily, personally and visibly as He promised He would. The second coming of Christ will be in two separate phases; the Rapture and the Revelation. Firstly, He will come in the imminent, pre-tribulation catching away (Rapture) of the saints — His Church – known as the Blessed Hope. The dead in Christ shall be raised first in glorified bodies, and then the living in Christ shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with Him. *John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 51-54; Philippians 3:20-21; Titus 2:13; 1 John 2:1-3; Revelation 3:10*

Tribulation and Millennium — We believe that after the seven year Tribulation Period, which follows the Rapture of the saints, Christ, will come with ten thousands of his saints to the earth to establish His Millennial kingdom. He will come in great power and great glory to sit upon the Throne of David and to establish a literal millennial (1000 years) reign on the earth. Then Satan will be cast into the bottomless pit, shut up and sealed so that he will not deceive the nations any more till the thousand years is fulfilled at which point he will be loosed for a little season. *Daniel 9:25-27; Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isaiah 9:6, 7, 11:1-9; Acts 2:29, 30; Revelation 19:11-21; 20:1-4, 6*

Final Events — We believe that following the 1000 year reign on earth, Satan will be loosed for a season and a final battle will be fought. After this, Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire with all the unbelievers judged at the Great White Throne. Following this, heaven and earth will be destroyed in fervent heat and a New Heaven and New Earth will be created where the saints shall be forever with The Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:9-14; Revelation 20:7-22:5

OUTLINE OF FUTURE EVENTS

- The Rapture of the Church. *1 Thessalonians 4:13-17*
- The Judgment seat of Christ. *1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10*
- The Marriage of the Lamb. *Revelation 19:9*
- The Marriage Supper. *Revelation 19:7*
- The Signing of the Peace Treaty with Israel. *Daniel 9:27*
- The Seven-year Tribulation begins. *Daniel 9*
- The Second Advent of Christ. *Revelation 19; Matthew 24:30; Zechariah 14:4-9; Acts 1:11*
- The Judgment of the living Jews and Gentiles. *Matthew 25*
- The Resurrection of the Tribulation saints. *Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:4*
- The Binding of Satan for a thousand years. *Revelation 20:13*
- The Millennial Reign of Christ on Earth. (1000 years) *Revelation 20:4-6; Isaiah 9:6*
- The Loosing of Satan for a season. *Revelation 20:7-10*
- The Final rebellion. *Revelation 20:8-9*
- The Casting of Satan into the Lake of Fire. *Revelation 20:10*
- The Resurrection of Unsaved dead. *Revelation 20:5-12*
- The Great White Throne Judgment. *Revelation 20:7, 11-15*
- The New Heaven and Earth. *Revelation 21*
- The State of Eternal Bliss. *Revelation 22:1-5*

1 Timothy 3:15

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”