

Grace Bible Church of Rainbow City Statement of Faith

BIBLE – We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, the final authority for faith and life.¹

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 16:12-13

GOD – We believe in the one true God² eternally existing in three persons as the incomprehensible Trinity³- Father, Son and Holy Spirit – each possessing divine perfection and worthy of precisely the same homage and obedience. He, as creator and sovereign ruler of the universe, is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works.⁴

² Deuteronomy 6:4 ³ Matthew 28:19 ⁴ 1 John 1:5

JESUS CHRST- We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God⁵, who became man⁶ without ceasing to be God⁷, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit⁸ and born of the Virgin Mary, and that He lived a sinless life⁹ that He might reveal God. We believe He accomplished our redemption through His death¹⁰ on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice and full propitiation for our sins, and that our redemption is made sure to us by His literal, bodily resurrection from among the dead.¹¹ We further believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven, exalted at the right hand of God, where, as the High Priest for His people, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate.¹²

⁵ John 1:1-2 ⁶ John 1:14 ⁷ Philippians 2:6-8 ⁸ Luke 1:35 ⁹ Hebrews 4:15 ¹⁰ Romans 3:24-25
¹¹ I Peter 1:3-5 ¹² Hebrews 4:14-16

HOLY SPIRIT – We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts mankind of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.¹³ He alone enables a man to place genuine trust in Jesus Christ,¹⁴ baptizing him into the body of Christ at the moment of saving faith,¹⁵ indwelling him for godly living and forever sealing him to glory.¹⁶ We further believe that this constitutes the only baptism by the Holy Spirit and need not be evidenced by any special gifts such as tongues.

¹³ John 16:7-11 ¹⁴ John 3:5-6 ¹⁵ I Corinthians 12:12-24 ¹⁶ Ephesians 1:13-14

MAN AND SIN – We believe that man was directly created¹⁷ by God in His own image,¹⁸ holy and upright; that through the historic fall into sin, man comes under God's condemnation,¹⁹ and that in consequence the whole human race is dead in trespasses and sins²⁰ and subject to its judgment: death and hell. We believe that this total depravity extends to every person²¹ because he is born into this world with a sinful nature which possesses no spark of divine life. We further believe that without God's provision for salvation in His Son,²² Jesus Christ, no one can enter the Kingdom of God,²³ that no degree of reformation, no educational attainment, no cultural or philanthropic achievement, no religious ordinances can help a sinner toward the Kingdom.²⁴

¹⁷ Genesis 2:7 ¹⁸ Genesis 1:26 ¹⁹ Romans 5:12 ²⁰ Ephesians 2:1 ²¹ Romans 3:10-12
²² John 3:18 ²³ John 3:5 ²⁴ Isaiah 64:6

SALVATION – We believe that salvation from sin is a free gift offered by God through His grace,²⁵ and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ,²⁶ whose precious blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins, and that no repentance or penance, no resolution or sincere effort, no membership in nor submission to any church or its rules or regulations can in the very least add to the value of that blood or to the merit of the redemptive work on Calvary.²⁷

We further believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.²⁸ We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for sin.²⁹

²⁵ Ephesians 2:8-9 ²⁶ John 3:16 ²⁷ I Peter 1:18-23 ²⁸ John 10:27-30; Romans 8:38-39
²⁹ Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13

TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER – We believe that every saved person possesses two natures,³⁰ with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit,³¹ and that all claims to eradication of the old nature in this life are unscripted.³²

³⁰ Ephesians 4:22-24 ³¹ Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25 ³² Romans 7:18-24

CHRISTIAN LIFE – We believe that the Christian is called with a holy calling to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.³³ Because he has become a new creature in Christ Jesus³⁴ and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit,³⁵ we believe that he should recognize that he is a pilgrim in this world,³⁶ with a mission to proclaim Christ, and to live a life consistent with his Christian testimony.³⁷ We believe that

separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful practices and associations is commanded of God.³⁸

We also believe that it is the responsibility of every Christian to be yielded to the Holy Spirit³⁹ as commanded in the Scriptures, thereby bearing the fruit of the Spirit and exercising such gifts as the Spirit⁴⁰ may grant in His sovereign will.⁴¹ We believe that the Christian life should be characterized by love for and obedience to God's Word; love toward all men (even those considered to be enemies); humility, honesty, fidelity and integrity in all family, social, business and professional relationships.⁴² We believe that the Christian will be increasingly sensitive to the sin of his own heart and will yield to Christ as Lord of his life for victory over pride, self-seeking, jealousy, a critical spirit, bitterness and all other characteristics of the old nature.⁴³ We believe that as the Christian permits God to work in his heart, he will separate himself from those things which tend to hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in his life and which impair the capacities of body, mind or spirit, realizing these gifts of God for which he is accountable and which are to be separated unto Him for His purposes.⁴⁴

Moreover, we believe that the Christian should desire to mature in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Further, the Christian realizes that "no man liveth to himself" and will determine to forgo anything which causes his brother to stumble.⁴⁵ We believe that God has appointed prayer,⁴⁶ Bible reading,⁴⁷ worship,⁴⁸ fellowship,⁴⁹ giving⁵⁰ and witnessing,⁵¹ as responsibilities and means of growth for His children.⁵² We further believe that, as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will give account to Him.⁵³

³³ Galatians 5:16 ³⁴ II Corinthians 5:17 ³⁵ John 14:16-17 ³⁶ Philippians 3:18-21

³⁷ I Peter 1:14-16 ³⁸ I John 2:15-17; II Corinthians 6:14 – 7:1 ³⁹ Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16

⁴⁰ Galatians 5:22-23 ⁴¹ I Corinthians 12:4-12 ⁴² Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 1:9-11

⁴³ Romans 6:11-13 ⁴⁴ Romans 12:1-2 ⁴⁵ Romans 14:13 ⁴⁶ James 5:16 ⁴⁷ John 17:17

⁴⁸ Hebrews 10:24-25 ⁴⁹ Colossians 3:16 ⁵⁰ Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:2 ⁵¹ Acts 1:8

⁵² II Peter 3:18 ⁵³ II Corinthians 5:10

MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS – We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts;⁵⁴ and that each believer is given at least one spiritual gift which is important for the edification of the body.⁵⁵ We further believe that the gift of speaking in tongues was never the necessary or common sign of the baptism or the filling of the Holy Spirit.⁵⁶ In view of the fact that we now have the completed revelation of the doctrine there is no longer the need for the sign-gifts to corroborate the truths of God's Word.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ I Corinthians 12:4-11 ⁵⁵ I Corinthians 12:7 ⁵⁶ I Corinthians 12:13 ⁵⁷ II Corinthians 12:12

MISSIONS – We believe that it is the obligation of Christians to witness by life⁵⁹ and by word⁶⁰ to the truths of the Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to all mankind.⁶¹

⁵⁹ Matthew 5:16 ⁶⁰ Acts 1:8 ⁶¹ Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15

THE CHURCH – We believe that the Holy Spirit incorporates all true believers of this age into the Church,⁶² which is Christ's body.⁶³ We further believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught in the New Testament.⁶⁴ As members one of another⁶⁵ in the local church, we are responsible to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace,⁶⁶ loving one another with a true heart fervently.⁶⁷

⁶² Ephesians 2:18-22 ⁶³ Colossians 1:24 ⁶⁴ Acts 2:42; Acts 20:17 ⁶⁵ Ephesians 4:25
⁶⁶ Ephesians 4:3 ⁶⁷ I Peter 1:22

ORDINANCES – We believe that Christ ordained the observance of water baptism⁶⁸ and the Lord's Supper for His Church, both confined to believers only. We also believe that the New Testament pattern of baptism is baptism by immersion.

⁶⁸ Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38

ANGELS AND DEMONS – We believe in the personal existence of unseen spirits in the world⁶⁹ who contend for the souls of men,⁷⁰ some furthering the purposes of God⁷¹ and others, under Satan,⁷² opposing those purposes.⁷³

⁶⁹ Colossians 1:16 ⁷⁰ I Peter 5:8 ⁷¹ Hebrews 1:7 ⁷² II Corinthians 11:14 ⁷³ Revelation 12:9-12

THE RETURN OF CHRIST – We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy is the bodily, personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ to receive to Himself His own,⁷⁴ who are alive and also all those who have died trusting in Him.⁷⁵ This, our blessed hope,⁷⁶ is an imminent certainty and promotes godly living in the present.⁷⁷ We further believe that this event will be followed by the Great Tribulation,⁷⁸ after which Christ will return to earth with His saints⁷⁹ to begin His millennial reign.

⁷⁴ John 14:3; Acts 1:11 ⁷⁵ II Corinthians 15:23-24; I Thessalonians 4:13-17 ⁷⁶ Titus 2:13
⁷⁷ I John 2:28 ⁷⁸ Matthew 24:21-28 ⁷⁹ Matthew 24:29-31; Zechariah 14:5

HEAVEN AND HELL – We believe in the bodily resurrection⁸⁰ and everlasting blessedness of believers⁸¹ and in the bodily resurrection, final judgment and everlasting punishment of unbelievers.⁸² By this we mean that we believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence⁸³ and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His second coming. Further, we believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery⁸⁴ until the final judgment,⁸⁵ when soul and body shall be united and cast into the lake of fire to be separated from God and punished forever.⁸⁶

⁸⁰ I Corinthians 15:12-21 ⁸¹ II Corinthians 5:1 ⁸² John 5:29 ⁸³ II Corinthians 5:8

⁸⁴ Luke 16:19-31 ⁸⁵ Revelation 20:11-15 ⁸⁶ II Thessalonians 1:6-9