

# DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

Source: [www.graceatlanta.org](http://www.graceatlanta.org)

## **-THE SCRIPTURES-**

We believe that the Bible in its entirety is inspired and "God-breathed," i.e. verbal-plenary inspiration. We believe that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God "profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness". We believe that the Bible in the original manuscripts is inerrant (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

## **-THE GODHEAD-**

We believe that God exists in three Persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14). We believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God, coequal and coeternal, sharing the exact same attributes, power, glory, and are of the same essence (Deut. 6:4; Acts 5:3-4). We believe that God exercises sovereign rule over all creation as part of and consistent with the characteristics of Deity (Ps 24:1).

## **-THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST-**

We believe that the eternal Son of God became fully man when He was born of the virgin Mary yet never ceased to be fully God; that He became man to fulfill prophecy, reveal God, and redeem the human race; that He was born in, remained in, and arrived at the Cross in a state of impeccability having never sinned (John. 1:18, 29). We believe that His spiritual death on the Cross was substitutionary and accomplished redemption for man; that He rose from the dead in the same body and that He is now at the right Hand of God the Father; that His resurrection and acceptance in the presence of the Father is the assurance of His redeeming work (Jn. 1:29; 20:24-29; 1 Pt. 1:18-22). We believe that He is currently the Head of the church which is His body and that He intercedes for those who are saved functioning as their High Priest and Advocate (Heb. 7:25; 9:24-26).

## **-THE HOLY SPIRIT-**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead who began an unprecedented ministry during this age upon His advent on the day of Pentecost; that this special ministry encompasses convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; restraining evil to some degree; baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ; permanently indwelling and sealing believers unto the day of redemption; empowering believers to execute the spiritual life through filling and teaching (Acts 2:1-4; 2 Thess. 2:7; 2 Cor. 1:22; Jn. 14:26). We believe that the Holy Spirit's unique ministry during this age will terminate at the resurrection of the Church (Phil. 3:11, 21; 2 Thess. 2:7).

## **-SATAN AND HIS FALLEN ANGELS-**

We believe that the first beings God created were supernatural beings called angels; that Lucifer was the highest ranking of these beings and through his pride committed the first sin; that one third of the angelic beings chose to follow him (Job 38:4-6; Is. 14:12-14). We believe that God rendered a judgment of eternal condemnation in the Lake of Fire on these beings in eternity past; that upon this judgment, although suspended, Lucifer inherited the name of Satan and his followers became classified as demons (Matt. 25:41; Matt. 7:22). We believe that Satan is the author of sin, enemy

of God, and enemy of man; that he has access to God for accusing His saints, and is currently ruler of the world (1 Pt. 5:8; Jn. 12:31). We believe that Satan will be barred from God's throne room and cast down to earth during the Tribulation; that he will be bound in the Abyss for 1000 years during the millennial reign of Christ, released for a short period of time, then thrown forever into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 12:7-9; Rev. 20:1-3,10).

#### **-MAN-**

We believe that Adam was created in the image and likeness of God, spiritually alive, and that through one act of personal sin, he died spiritually and acquired a sin nature. Since Adam's sin, every member of the human race, excluding Jesus Christ, is born physically alive yet spiritually dead, in a state of total depravity with a seminally transmitted sin nature (Rom. 3:10-17; Jer. 17:9). This state of depravity leaves man totally helpless to produce an eternal relationship with God apart from the saving work of Christ on the Cross and God's policy of grace (Isa. 64:6; Eph. 2:8-9).

#### **-DISPENSATIONS-**

We believe that the Bible is only accurately interpreted through the recognition that God accomplishes His purpose with man through distinct economies or stewardships; that dispensationalism is the only system that recognizes the required biblical distinctions between the Church and Israel. We believe that although man's responsibilities are changed or modified under each successive economy, salvation has and will always be the same, by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone as He is revealed. The basis for this salvation is the substitutionary spiritual death of Christ on the Cross (Gen. 15:6; Eph. 2:8-9).

#### **-SALVATION-**

We believe that salvation comes to the sinner only by faith alone in Christ alone; that there is no other means of salvation afforded to the human race to include baptism, church membership, emotional guilt over personal sin, good deeds, philanthropic activity, etc., etc. ad infinitum. Salvation is based solely on the spiritual death of Christ on the Cross and can only be received through personal faith in Jesus Christ (Isa. 64:6; Acts 4:12; 6:31; Eph. 2:8-9).

#### **-ETERNAL SECURITY-**

We believe that there is no sin that a believer can commit or creature powerful enough to cancel the salvation that God has accomplished. We believe that believer's are eternally secure in their salvation (Jn. 10:28, 29; 1 Jn. 5:13).

#### **-SPIRITUALITY-**

We believe that spirituality is an absolute state for the believer, when there is no unconfessed sin in the life. This status quo is tantamount to the filling of the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit is the sole means by which the spiritual life is executed. We believe that the believer loses the filling of the Holy Spirit through committing acts of personal sin; that the believer recovers this filling through grace by confessing known personal sin directly to God the Father (Gal. 5:16; 1 Jn. 1:9).

### **-SPIRITUAL GIFTS-**

We believe that spiritual gifts are given to believers in order for the Church to properly function. God the Holy Spirit distributes these gifts to the Church Age believer at the moment of salvation. The spiritual gifts include, but are not limited to: administration, giving, helps, pastor-teacher, evangelism, mercy, and prayer.

We believe that certain spiritual gifts terminated at the completion of the Canon and others ceased to function over time or coterminously with the death of the last apostle. We believe that the gifts of healing, working of miracles, tongues, interpretation of tongues, and apostleship are no longer legitimately functioning today. Any member attempting to practice such gifts shall be subject to immediate dismissal (1 Cor. 12; 13:10).

### **-THE CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY-**

We believe the Christian's responsibility is to "grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ," make decisions conducive to growth, to the end that his life is consistent with the Lord's plan, thus bringing both blessing to the believer and glory to the Lord. Other areas of service will be fulfilled as a result of the believer's positive volition toward God's Word and subsequent spiritual growth (2 Pet 3:18).

### **-THE CHURCH-**

We believe that the Church is the Body and Bride of Christ of whom He is the Head; that this universal Church is only composed of Church Age believers. Believers are united to the body through the baptism of the Holy Spirit regardless of gender, race, national origin, or denominational membership (1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col. 1:18).

### **-THE ORDINANCE-**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ mandated the observance of the Lord's Supper for every believer throughout the Church Age (1 Cor. 11:23-34).

### **-THE BLESSED HOPE-**

We believe that the next prophetic event to occur after Pentecost is the Resurrection of the Church, which is the believer's blessed hope; that this blessed hope is just as imminent now as it was during the Apostolic Era (1 Cor. 15:51-52; Titus 2:13).

### **-THE TRIBULATION-**

We believe that the Tribulation is Daniel's seventieth week and the time of Jacob's trouble in which God primarily deals with the nation Israel for seven years (Dan. 9:24); that this period of time will begin after the Resurrection of the Church upon the signing of a treaty between Israel and "the man of sin"; that this covenant will be broken in the middle of the week (3.5 years) which initiates the Great Tribulation where unprecedented wrath will be poured out on mankind (Dan. 9:27; 12:11); that this period will terminate at the Second Coming of the Lord (Matt. 24:29-30).

#### **-THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST-**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth in His resurrected body with His saints to establish the millennial kingdom for 1000 years in which the unconditional biblical covenants will be fulfilled as promised to Israel (Acts 15:16-17).

#### **-THE ETERNAL STATE-**

We believe that those who are saved upon physical death, go to be with the Lord and there they shall forever remain (2 Cor. 5:8); that the saved receive a resurrection body respective to the completion of the dispensation in which they lived (Dan. 12:13). We believe that unbelievers upon physical death reside in Hades until the end of human history, at which time they will be resurrected, judged on the basis of their deeds, and sentenced to an eternal lake of fire where they will forever be in pain (Lk. 16:19-31; Rev. 20:11-15).