

Grace Hill Church Statement of Faith

Introduction

Grace Hill Church is a church under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we are committed to contending for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3). In unity with the historic Christian church, we believe and confess the Apostles' and Nicene creeds as accurate representations of Scripture's teaching.

In addition to these historic formulations, we are situated within the evangelical, Reformed and Baptist traditions and affirm the TGC Foundational Documents as well as the New City Catechism.

The basic doctrines within Grace Hill Church's Statement of Faith represent what we believe to be core elements of biblical teaching. We expect all members of Grace Hill Church to affirm these doctrines.

The theological distinctives within the Grace Hill Church Statement of Faith reflect what distinguishes Grace Hill Church from other churches who would affirm the basic doctrines. These distinctives shape the way that Grace Hill Church is led and the direction the church is headed. We do not expect all members to embrace all aspects of these distinctives, but members should expect that the distinctives will be maintained in all ministry environments at Grace Hill Church and members may not teach contrary to them.

BASIC

1) God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)

We believe in one God eternally existing as one essence and three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, each of whom is fully God, yet there is one God. We believe God is Creator of all things, holy and infinitely perfect.

2) Bible

We believe that both the Old and New Testaments are the authoritative Word of God spoken into scripture through human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The bible is inerrant (without error) and infallible (without falsehood) in the original writings and reveals God's complete revelation for salvation, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

3) Creation

We believe God created the whole world from nothing. God's creative work is the overflow of the love present within the Trinitarian fellowship. Creation, according to the design of God, was good. He upholds the universe by the word of His power, and He holds the world together in himself.

4) Humanity

We believe God made humanity - male and female - in His own image to represent Himself in creation. Set apart as His image bearers, every human being is sacred. God distinguished men and women as His agents to care for, manage and govern over His creation. Man and woman were made to complement each other in a one-flesh union in the covenant of marriage that establishes the only God-ordained pattern of sexual relations for men and women.

4a) *DISTINCTIVE//Complementarianism*

Men and women are absolutely equal in essence, dignity and value but are distinct by divine design. As part of God's good created order, men and women are to have different yet complementary roles and responsibilities in the home and in the church. As it relates to the church, men and women are both expected to lead; however, the office of elder is reserved for qualified men.

5) Sin

We believe that in union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. As a result, the entire human race inherits a corrupt nature that is opposed to God and His law. This corrupt nature extends to the mind, will, and affections. Only by the grace of God through the saving work of Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

6) Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation, Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, fully God and fully man - one Person with two natures. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

7) Salvation

We believe that salvation is only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour who shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. Through His atoning death and victorious resurrection, all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ through faith alone are declared righteous by God and become children of God.

We believe that in salvation, the Holy Spirit imparts a new nature that possesses a holy disposition and transforms the mind and the heart to have a new desire to live for God.

7a) *DISTINCTIVE//Sovereignty of God in Salvation*

The salvation of humanity is the work of God. Before the foundation of the world, God elected His people and in love predestined them for adoption. Faith is a gift of grace that is given by the mercy and pleasure of God so that no one may boast. Apart from the intervention of God, humanity cannot choose of His own accord to worship God

and pursue righteousness. God's sovereignty in salvation is comprehensive; from first to last, all of salvation is the work of God.

8) Church

We believe that the church is the body of Christ (manifest in local churches) made up of those who have become genuine followers of Christ. The mission of the church is to bring glory to God by making disciples of all nations. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. The church's scriptural officers are elders and deacons.

8a) DISTINCTIVE// Believer's Baptism

Baptism is intended for those who have publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ. In obedience to Christ's command, believers are baptized by water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Baptism is a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection. It signifies that a former way of life has been put to death and vividly depicts the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

9) Last Things

We believe in the end when Jesus returns, God will bodily raise the dead and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace.