



What We Believe About God

We believe that--

1. There is **one true and living God** who created and sustains all things.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

God is **eternally** existent in three Persons who are one in nature, purpose and attributes and who are worthy of the same worship and obedience.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

2. **God the Father** is infinite and perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. He saves all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9).

3. God, the Son – **Jesus Christ** – became a man, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died for the sins of all people, rose from the dead, and is now seated in Heaven where He intercedes for the saints. One day, He will come back for His church and to judge all mankind.

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (Matthew 24:30-31)

4. God, the **Holy Spirit**, convicts of sin, regenerates, sanctifies and gives power to all who believe in Christ. The Holy Spirit lives in every believer. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience after salvation that imparts power and spiritual gifts to each believer (Acts 2 - Pentecost).

5. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, omnipresent and eternal. God is unchanging. He is holy, righteous, just and merciful. God is spirit. God is love (1 John 4:16).

6. God loves us more than we can imagine and desires to have a personal relationship with us. Sin broke fellowship between us and God, but He loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son in order to restore our relationship with Him (John 3:16).



What We Believe About People

We believe that--

1. Humanity was created in the **image and likeness of God** by a direct act of God.

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27).

2. Since the original fall of man into sin, all people are **born in sin**, separated from God, and in need of salvation. We cannot save ourselves by works; we need a Savior.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9).

3. To be **born again**, we must repent of our sins, place our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ and confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-13). Salvation is by the grace of God, not by our good works. We could never do enough good to have a relationship with God There is no other way to be saved apart from the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)

4. Our **main purpose** in life is to glorify God. This is done through the fruit of our lips giving thanks and praise to Him and by the fruit of our lives lived for Him (Hebrews 13:15-16).

5. All Christians are in the process of **being conformed** to the image of Jesus Christ. God uses different methods with different people to accomplish this eternal purpose.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Romans 8:28-29).

6. God desires for us to be whole – **spirit, soul and body**.

May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23).



Other Beliefs

We believe that--

1. **The Bible** is the perfect guidebook for living. It is the infallible, inspired Word of God, without error in the original manuscripts.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

2. **The Church** is God's family and is composed of all born again believers in Jesus Christ. The Church is God's main instrument to further His work on the earth. We do this by preaching the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ and by living like Jesus in a way that demonstrates God's character and power.

And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way (Ephesians 1:22-23).

3. The Bible teaches **several baptisms**. Baptism into the Body of Christ occurs at salvation. Water baptism is by immersion. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is subsequent to salvation. The baptism of fire is the ongoing purification process of believers.

I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11).

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call (Acts 2:38-39).

4. All Christians are **called to minister** – to the Lord, to the Church and to the world. In addition, God calls and commissions apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for this ministry. The purpose of this **five-fold ministry** is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry.

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the **work of ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ.* (Eph. 4:11-12)



Distinctive Doctrines

Some of our beliefs are very distinctive and we want to point them out.

- **We believe all healing is from God and He can heal anyway He chooses.**

We believe that God is the source of true change and healing, yet He uses many different methods to heal. He uses miracles, the laying on of hands, anointing with oil, medicine, physicians, support groups, counselors, sermons, books, music and many other ways of healing.

So, we pray in faith for God to heal and trust Him with the timing and results. Sometimes healing is instantaneous; sometimes it takes time.

- **We believe in God's power and God's process.**

Sometimes change is instantaneous and miraculous; sometimes it takes time and effort.

We believe in instant healing and deliverance (which could be called 1 Step to Recovery), but sometimes it's progressive (like the 12 Steps to Recovery).

We want to support people whether God's power instantly changes them (1 Step) or God's process progressively changes them (12 Steps).

- **We believe God can use counseling as part of the change process.**

In some churches, there is a stigma attached to anyone who goes to a counselor. Not at Grace Fellowship Church. We believe there is safety in counsel and there are times we all need an unbiased party to hear us and help us.

Our only caution is that counsel should never go against the teachings of the Word of God, so we should be wise in choosing a counselor.

- **We believe that women are capable of ministering in the church and we release them to minister wherever they are called and equipped.**

Every church has its belief about what women can and can't do in the church. We respect that and don't argue about it.

We believe that man and woman were created to rule and reign in life and ministry together. Women are free to minister in our church - including in leadership positions - wherever they are called and equipped.