

THE GROVE CHURCH

Statement of Faith

THE SCRIPTURES: We believe that the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are inspired of God, in whole and in part, error-free in the original writings and the supreme authority of faith and practice for the believer in Jesus Christ.¹

GOD: We believe there is but one living and true God who is infinite, eternal and unchangeable. We further believe that God is one in essence while existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Though each person of the Godhead possesses precisely the same nature and attributes, each functions differently in respect to God's purposes and dealings with man.²

THE FATHER: The first person of the Trinity is sovereign in creation, providence and redemption. He graciously involves Himself in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.³

THE SON: The second person of the Trinity is both the eternal Son of God and virgin-born Son of man. Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, led a sinless life and satisfied the Father's justice concerning sin by His substitutionary death. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His physical ascension and his future return to earth.⁴

THE HOLY SPIRIT: The third person of the Trinity executes the will of God in the world of men. It is the Holy Spirit who applies the salvation Jesus Christ secured through His death on the cross. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers the church to live a lifestyle pleasing to God, endowing it with special gifts, which equip believers to accomplish distinct ministries, planned beforehand by God the Father.⁵

MAN: We believe that man was created in the image of God to enjoy His fellowship and to fulfill God's will on earth. Man sinned by a voluntary act of personal disobedience to the will of God; as a result, all men are spiritually dead and subject to the certainty of physical death⁷ and eternal separation from God. Each person is born with a sinful nature and sins habitually in thought, word and deed.⁶

SALVATION: We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as the only sufficient substitutionary sacrifice. All who believe in Him are declared justified by the Father on the grounds of Jesus' death and resurrection. All who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by grace through faith have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. By grace they become the children of God, granted eternal life with him. Furthermore, God's grace enables righteous living and good works as the believer submits his life to the control of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of the Word of God.⁷

THE CHURCH: We believe that all who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit belong to the one true universal church and are directed by the Scriptures to associate themselves in local, visible churches. The purpose of the church is to lead men to Christ, mature them in the faith, and equip them for personal ministry.⁸

1 Psalm 119:160; 1 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12

2 Deuteronomy 4:39, 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

3 1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 103:19; Matthew 6:9; John 5:19-24; Ephesians 1:3-6

4 John 1:14-18; Acts 1:11; Romans 3:24-26; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:16-18; Revelation 20:11-15

5 John 3:1-8 & 15-16, 15:4-15; 1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13-14, 5:18-21

6 Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, 3:3-4; Romans 1:18-32, 3:10-23; Ephesians 2:1-3

7 John 1:12, 3:16, 5:24, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26, 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 10:10-12; 1 John 5:11-13

8 Matthew 16:13-28, 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47, 4:1-16; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:11-13; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Peter 5:1-3