

Grace Bible Church of Fulton

We exist to glorify God by proclaiming and living out biblical truth. Ultimately, we seek to be known for the Gospel. Our distinctives reflect our Word-centered approach to exalting God, edifying the saints, and engaging the world.

Reformed Baptist Theology

The Reformed Baptist theology of GBC is expressed in three ways:

1. The “*five solas*” of the Protestant Reformation: *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone), *Sola Fide* (faith alone), *Sola gratia* (grace alone), *Solus Christus* (Christ alone), and *Soli Deo Gloria* (glory to God alone). The five solas emphasize the authority of Scripture and the clarity of the Gospel as a call to unmerited salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
2. The five “doctrines of grace” associated with Reformed theology: Total Depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and perseverance of the saints. These doctrines affirm the absolute sovereignty of God in salvation and confess His desire and ability to save sinners.
3. The doctrinal statement of GBC is the *Second London Baptist Confession of Faith (1689)*. This document explains the biblical understanding of God, man, and the Church within the Baptist tradition.

Affirmation of the Five Solas, the Doctrines of Grace, and the Second London Baptist Confession (1689) is required for membership at GBC. While full ascription to each point of these doctrinal distinctives is not required, members of GBC must avoid divisiveness over these or other doctrines of the church.

Regulative Principle of Worship

Observance of the regulative principle of worship means that GBC seeks to worship God as He desires to be worshipped in Scripture. This includes the ordinary means of grace: the public reading of Scripture, preaching from God’s Word, corporate prayer, congregational singing, administering the ordinances of baptism and communion, and fellowship. The regulative of worship prohibits expressions of worship that are not explicitly authorized in Scripture, otherwise known as the Normative principle of worship.

Expository, Christ-Centered Preaching

GBC practices sequential exposition of books of the Bible as part of the corporate worship service. Biblical exposition aims for an explanation of the biblical text in its historical, canonical, and theological context. Once that is understood, then proper application of the text is given for godly living. The responsibility of the expositor is to handle the biblical text with precision and accuracy. The effectiveness of expository preaching as a means of grace is wholly dependent on the empowering Holy Spirit rather than the skills or charisma of the preacher.

Congregational and Christ-centered singing

The congregational singing at GBC glorifies God and edifies the saints by clearly expressing the Gospel message in musical form. The music has simple instrumental accompaniment, and the musicians and song leaders aim to assist and elevate the congregational singing rather than provide a musical performance. We sing psalms and hymns and avoid individual performances as part of the congregational singing.

Family-Friendly Ministry

We seek to foster family unity by encouraging and equipping families to worship together at home and with the Church on the Lord's Day. Parents are entrusted with the primary responsibility for discipling and guiding their children. The church should not usurp the authority of godly parents, nor assume the responsibilities of parents who are lax in their duties. Thus, GBC is committed to teaching biblical principles of parenthood and holding parents accountable to disciple their children in their homes.

Active Church Membership

GBC believes in taking church membership seriously. Christians are to submit themselves mutually and lovingly to a local church's care, oversight, doctrine, and discipline. Likewise, they are to be faithful and active in the church body's life, fellowship, service, worship, and functions. The local church is the setting for Christians to utilize their spiritual gifts for the mutual edification of the body of Christ.

Biblical Counseling

GBC believes that God's Word is sufficient for counseling in matters pertaining to life and godliness. Though the leadership of GBC offers formal Biblical counseling for its members, biblical counseling takes place primarily in the regular preaching of the Word and organically in the weekly fellowship of the saints.

Church Discipline

Because God takes church membership and holiness seriously, GBC practices careful church discipline. The goal of church discipline is accountability within the membership to live according to God's Word and restore wayward members to fellowship with the church.

Biblical Leadership

GBC desires to have a plurality of biblically qualified elders and deacons whose lives and doctrine are submitted to the authority of God's Word and who carefully and lovingly look after the practical needs of the congregation. The elder(s) lead the Church by teaching, preaching, and applying Scripture to the needs and questions of the church. The Church leadership has biblical authority to make decisions about the Church's operations. Still, it makes decisions only after seeking the Lord's guidance in prayer and Scripture and seeking the wisdom of the Church body.

Mission-mindedness

Members of GBC are to be gospel-bearers in the home, Church, and community. We promote, encourage, and equip the saints for family worship and personal evangelism. As God allows, we consider it proper and desirable to be involved in missionary organization(s) representing a cooperative effort of like-minded churches.