

# STATEMENT OF FAITH OF GRACE COMMUNITY CHAPEL

*“Strengthening Life’s Relationships Through Grace”*

## **1. We believe in the ONE TRIUNE GOD:**

Who is personal, spirit, sovereign, (Mark 12:29; John 4:24; 14:9; Psa.135:6) perfect, infinite, eternal in His being, holiness, love, wisdom and power (Psa.18:30; 147:5; Deut.33:27). Who is absolutely separate and above the world as its Creator, yet everywhere present in the world as the Upholder of all things (Gen. 1:1; Psa.104); self-existent and self-revealing in three distinct persons -- the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit (John 5:26; Matt.28:19; 2 Cor.13:14); each of whom is to be honored and worshipped equally One Triune God (John 5:23; Acts 5:3,4).

## **2. We believe in the EXISTENCE OF SATAN:**

Who originally was created a holy and perfect being, but through pride and unlawful ambition rebelled against God (Ezek 28:13-17; Isa 14:13,14). He is the great adversary of God and deceiver of this present world system.

## **3. We believe in the CREATION AND FALL OF MAN:**

That Adam & Eve were the direct creations of God, consisting of spirit soul and body, and not in any sense the product of an animal ancestry, but made in the divine image (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; 1 Thess. 5:23); that by personal disobedience to the revealed will of God, they became sinful creatures and the progenitor, or parents of a fallen race (Gen. 3:1-24; 5:3). In this fallen state/condition all mankind are universally sinful in both nature and practice (Eph. 2:3; Rom. 3:23); alienated from the life and family of God (Eph. 4:18); therefore, under the righteous judgment and wrath of God (Rom. 3:19, 1:18); and have within themselves, no possible means of recovery, salvation or a right standing before a Holy God within their own merits. (Mk 7:21-23; Matt 19:25; Rom. 7:18).

## **4. We believe in the LORD JESUS CHRIST:**

Who is the second person of the Triune God, the eternal Word and only begotten Son, our Great God and Savior (John 1:1; 3:16; Titus 2:13; Romans 2:16); that without any essential change in His divine person (Heb.13:8), He became man by the miracle of virgin birth (Jn.1:1; Matt. 1:23); then to continue forever as both God and true man, (Col.2:9; Rev. 22:16); that as man, He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15; John 8:46); that as the perfect Lamb of God, He gave Himself in death upon the cross, bearing there, the sin of the world, and suffering its full penalty of divine wrath in our stead (Isa. 53:5,6; Matt 20:28; Gal. 3:13); that He arose again from the dead and was glorified forevermore (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:25-28). It was then, that as the perfect and final sacrificial Lamb God and our great High Priest, He ascended into heaven, there to appear before the face of God as our Advocate and Intercessor (Heb. 4:14; 9:24; 1 John 2:1). The

result of which, our sins and lawless deeds are remembered no more (Heb.31:34, Hebrews 8:12).

### **5. We believe in the HOLY SPIRIT:**

Who is the third person of the Triune God, (Matt.29:19; Acts 5:3,4), the divine agent in nature, revelation and redemption (Gen.1:2; Psa. 104:30; 1Cor.2:10); that convicts the world of sin (John 16:8-11), regenerates those who believe (John 3:5), and indwells, baptizes, seals, empowers, guides, teaches and sanctifies all who become children of God through Christ (making them the true and living church) (1Cor. 6:19; 12:13; Eph. 4:30).

### **6. We believe in the HOLY SCRIPTURES:**

Accepting fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very word of God, verbally inspired in all parts and therefore wholly without error as originally given by God. We believe they are all together sufficient in themselves as our only infallible rule of faith and practice.(Matt.3:18; John 10:35; 17:17; 2 Tim.3:16; 2 Pet.1:21; Heb.4:12).

**7. We believe that Jesus ushered in a New Covenant Of Grace** revealed through scriptures. "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). The Old Covenant of the law was given through a servant. Grace and truth came through the Son. The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life (2 Cor. 3:6). Under the law, God demands righteousness from spiritually bankrupt man. But under grace, God provides righteousness as a gift (2 Cor. 5:21, Rom. 5:17).

As the Holy Scriptures is rightly divided, the TRUTH conveyed will not only lift one from errors that bind but can lift or point souls to their true identity as Children of God.

We believe in celebrating the New Covenant by partaking of the two pictures left for the church age; (1) Baptism; a symbolic picture of the internal dynamic that took place at the point of receiving Christ's offer of resurrected, eternal life. (2) Lord's Supper; a picture and constant reminder of the finality of the work of Jesus on the cross, that all sin has been forgiven and will remain forgiven for eternity (1Jn.2:2; Rom. 4:8) .

### **8. We believe in SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH:**

That salvation (along with acceptance, security, righteousness, new identity, etc) is the free gift of God (Rom. 3:24; 6:23) neither merited nor secured in part or in whole by any virtue or work of man (Titus 3:5; Rom. 4:4-5; 11:16), but received only by personal faith in Jesus Christ (Jn. 3:16; 6:28, 29; Acts 16:30-31; Eph. 2 8-9). That salvation is through the reconciling blood of the Lord Jesus Christ's death on the Cross (Rom. 3:15; 5:9; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Rom. 5:10) and in acceptance of the gift of His resurrected LIFE (Rom. 5:10b; 1Jn.5:11-13); in whom all true believers have a perfect righteousness, sonship in the family of God, deliverance and security from all condemnation ( Romans 8:1) . In addition, receiving every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness and the divine guarantee that they shall never perish (1 John 5:13; Rom. 3:22; Gal. 3:26; Jn 5:24; Eph. 1:3 ; 2 Pet.

1:3; John 10:27-30); that this salvation includes the whole man, spirit soul and body (I Thess. 5:23-24); and apart from Christ there is no possible salvation (John 14 6: Acts 4:12).

#### **9. We believe in RIGHTEOUS LIVING AND GOOD WORKS:**

Not as the procuring cause of salvation in any sense, but as its proper evidence and fruit (1 John 3:9-11; 4:19; 5:4; Eph. 2:8-10); and therefore as Christians, we should seek the things which are above (Col. 3:1), walk as He walked (1 John 2:6), be careful to yield to His leading in good works (Titus 3:8): and especially accept as our solemn responsibility the duty and privilege of bearing the Gospel in a yielded life and/or in words to a lost world in order that we may bear much fruit (Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:19); remembering that a victorious and fruitful Christian life is possible only for those who have learned they are not under the law but under grace (Rom. 6:14); and who, in gratitude for the infinite and undeserved mercies of God, have presented themselves wholly (yielded) to Him for His service (Rom. 12:1,2), and walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25).

#### **10. We believe in the ONE TRUE CHURCH:**

That is the mystical body and bride of the Lord Jesus (Eph. 4:4; 5:25-32); which He began to build on the day of Pentecost by administering and sealing with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:47), and will complete at His second coming (1 Thess. 4:16,17). The local New Testament Church is a group of believers, called together by the Holy Spirit for worship of God, edification of the saints and share in the world-wide dissemination of the gospel.

#### **11. We believe in FUTURE LIFE, BODILY RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT:**

That the spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in heaven (2Cor.5:8); where they abide with Him until His second coming, when their bodies shall be raised from the grave and changed into the likeness of His own glorious body (Phil. 3:20, 21); at which time their works shall be brought before the judgment seat of Christ for the determination of rewards; that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment (Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:11-15).

#### **12. We believe in the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:**

That His return from heaven will be personal, visible, and glorious -- and the time is always imminent (Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7). He will first come to remove from the earth His waiting Church by the rapture. (1Thess. 4:16-18); Then pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world during the seven-year tribulation period (Rev. Chapter 6 through Chapter 18:24), afterward descend, to establish His glorious and literal Kingdom over all the nations for a thousand years.

2 Cor 15:17-21 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us (the Church) **the ministry OF reconciliation**: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, **not counting people's sins against them**. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.