

Grace Covenant Church Monroe, Louisiana

**Our Basic Beliefs**

1. We believe in one God who is eternally existent as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. We acknowledge one Lord Jesus Christ who is true God and true man. He was conceived supernaturally through the operation of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died on behalf of sinners, was buried, and on the third day He arose bodily. After forty days He ascended into heaven from where He will return physically to this earth in power and glory and usher in His eternal kingdom.
3. We believe in one Holy Spirit who furnishes the church of the Lord Jesus Christ with gifts and graces. He indwells the lives of God's people, and He bestows spiritual gifts for the edification and ministry of the church.
4. We acknowledge the Holy Scriptures, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as the written Word of God; and that this Word interpreted by the grammatical-historical method, comparing Scripture with Scripture, is our rule of faith and standard of conduct. All doctrines and practices are to be derived from it and are to be in harmony with it.
5. We acknowledge the one universal church of the Lord Jesus Christ consisting of all those who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We also acknowledge the visible congregations of the Lord throughout the earth and do so consider our fellowship as a gathering of the Lord's people in a visible and viable fellowship for the purpose of worshipping God and utilizing Biblical and doctrinal instruction as a means both of Christian growth and evangelism. The proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ to the world is our evangelistic mission. The church in its ministry is to be both kergmatic (Word-proclaiming) and charismatic (manifesting spiritual gifts).
6. We hold and maintain the following truths generally known as the doctrines of grace: the radical depravity of man whereby he is corrupt in the depths of his being and totally unable to accomplish spiritual good; the electing love of God the Father; the propitiatory and substitutionary sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ; regeneration and effectual calling by the Holy Spirit; the imputation of Christ's righteousness; the once-for-all justification by faith of the repentant sinner; his walk in newness of life, and growth in grace by the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit; the priestly intercession of our Lord Jesus; and the security and preservation and perseverance of the saints (true regenerated believers) in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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We affirm our belief in:

1. The one true God of Scriptural revelation who is the Creator; He is eternal, holy, sovereign and triune in His nature.
2. The Bible consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God written and authoritative for all belief and

practice. In it God has spoken to mankind and has given it to us to make us wise unto salvation.

3. Jesus, the son of Mary, as incarnate God born of a virgin; true man, yet sinless, who is the Messiah.

4. The Holy Spirit, who is God, active and present in our world, the life-giver and revealer of Jesus, and the deposit-guarantee of the believer's salvation. He is our Teacher and He empowers the Church for witness, service and worship.

5. God who is the Savior, active in sovereign love through our Lord Jesus Christ to rescue sinners by His atoning sacrifice from the guilt and power of sin and to adopt them as his sons, endows them with his blessing for the praise of His glorious grace.

6. The work of salvation which is the work of the Father who purposed redemption, the Word enfleshed, His Son Jesus, who secured salvation and the Spirit who applies it.

7. The message of reconciliation which calls men and women to repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. What God works for us in Jesus Christ He works in us by His Spirit with a resulting life of trust and obedience, praise and prayer, submission and service, all to the praise of His glory.

\* Doctrine Statement of Spirit, Truth & Grace Ministry

## **The Grace Center for Biblical and Theological Studies**

### **Our Distinctives**

We hold the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God. We affirm our unity with all believers who confess our historic Christian faith. That faith is summarized in the recent document entitled, "The Gospel of Jesus Christ: An Evangelical Celebration."\* We also hold to those essentials of the gospel message which were re-discovered during the Reformation known as the Doctrines of Grace. Built upon the "scriptures alone", all of our theology flows from the complementary truths that can be summarized as "by grace alone," "through faith alone," "in Christ alone," and "for the glory of God alone." The glory, grace, and sovereignty of God govern all that we believe.

Secondly, we are Baptist in our belief and practice of the Christian initiation rite of

baptism. We believe this holy ordinance should be reserved for adults or young people who have made a credible profession of faith in Christ.

Thirdly, we acknowledge our debt and need to study and take advantage of the rich tradition of Christian history. Our forefathers in the faith hammered out many valuable writings, confessions, creeds, catechisms, and songs which can greatly benefit our own church life. We neglect these kinds of enrichments to our own poverty.

Fourthly, we hold the dynamic of worship as another key factor in a life that is pleasing to and effective for God. Our courses are taught within the atmosphere of worship. Our goal is not knowledge for its own sake but knowledge so that we might be more effective servants and worshippers of God. We also believe it is important to foster various forms of participatory worship in the assemblies of our churches so that God's people can be enriched by various means in the corporate gatherings.

Finally, we seek to give the Holy Spirit his rightful place in the life of the church. We believe we need his empowerment and all his gifts.

Combining the above elements into the life of today's church is our vision and the key principles motivating our institution.

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Wayne Conrad