

Doctrines of Grace Bible Church of the CSRA, Inc.

Grace Bible Church of the CSRA, Inc. embraces the following statements concerning the truth. The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing; I Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines. We do not presume to say the phraseology employed in this Statement of Fundamental Truths is inspired or that it is the final work on Bible truth. However, we are persuaded it is proper and consistent with the Holy Scriptures to “set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us” (Luke 1:1).

The Person of Christ

Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and is true God (Fully God) and true Man (Fully Man), and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father (Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:6-9; Rom. 1:3,4; II Cor. 5:21; Col. 2:9; Heb. 4:15).

The Condition of Lost Mankind

All human beings are by nature dead in trespasses and sins and are, therefore, totally unable by their own wisdom or strength to do anything pleasing to God (Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 3:9-18; Rom. 8:7; I Cor. 1:18-31).

Personality and Work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a Person Who convicts individuals of sin and Who regenerates, baptizes, seals, indwells, enlightens, and empowers believers (Titus 3:5; I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13,17,18; 3:16).

The Church

In the present Dispensation there is only one true Church, called the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22&23; 3:1-6), separate and distinct from the prophesied, earthly kingdom of Christ. The Body of Christ began with the Apostle Paul before he wrote his first epistle (I Thess. 2:14-16 cf. Acts 13:45, 46; Phil. 1:5, 6 cf. Acts 16; I Cor. 12:13&27 cf. Acts 18). The Body of Christ Church did not begin in Acts chapter 2, but came about through the teachings of Paul according to the revelation of the mystery.

Spiritual Gifts

The spiritual gifts necessary for the ministry of the Body of Christ are those enumerated in Ephesians 4:7-16. Of these, only the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are in operation today. The gifts of ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, and showing of mercy as listed in Romans 12:7 and 8 as well as the gifts of helps and governments from I Corinthians 12:28 may also be considered operational today. All the sign gifts of the Acts period, such as tongues, prophecy, and healing (I Cor. 12:1-31), being temporary in character, have ceased (I Cor. 13:8-11).

The Resurrection

Jesus Christ was resurrected bodily from the dead (Luke 24:39-43). Based on I Corinthians 15:21, all men will have a bodily resurrection (Acts 24:15): the saved to everlasting glory and the unsaved to everlasting punishment (John 5:29; Rev. 20:11-15).

The Second Coming of Christ

The Rapture of the Church "*which is His Body*" and the Second Coming of Christ will be pre-millennial. He will come first to receive the members of His Body to Himself (I Thess. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20&21), and later to receive His Millennial Kingdom, over which He will reign (Zech. 14:4&9; Acts 1:10&11; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:4-6). Because of the distinctive nature of the Body of Christ, the resurrection and Rapture of the Church which is His Body will take place before the Tribulation (Jer. 30:7; Matt. 24:15-31) at His appearing in the air (I Thess. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20,21; Titus 2:13,14; I Cor. 15:51-53). The resurrection of the other saved dead will occur after the Tribulation (Rev. 20:4-6).

Our Mission and "Great Commission"

The mission and commission of the Church which is His Body is to proclaim the message of reconciliation (II Cor. 5:14-21) and to preach Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 3:8&9) with all boldness. In this we should follow the example of the Apostle Paul (I Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 4:9; I Tim. 1:11-16). That distinctive message which the Apostle of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13; 15:16) calls "*my gospel*" (Rom. 2:16; 16:25) is also called "*the gospel of the*

grace of God" (Acts 20:24). We, like Paul, must preach the entire Word of God in the light of "*this gospel*" (II Tim. 4:2; Gal. 1:8&9) and strive to reach those in the regions beyond where Christ is not yet named (Rom. 15:20; II Cor. 10:16).

Sexual Relations

We believe that for the good of mankind God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage relationship between a man and a woman, and that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, incest, fornication and adultery are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex and therefore unacceptable behavior for anyone professing to be saved through personal faith in Jesus Christ (Gen. 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8,9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:1-7; Col. 3:2-5; I Thess. 4:1-8; Titus 2:11-14; 3:3-8; Heb. 13:4).

The Institution of Marriage

We believe that the only legitimate marriage relationship is the joining together of one man and one woman as husband and wife (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22, 23).

Spiritual Authority

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women. Husbands are to be the leaders in the home and men are to be the leaders in evangelism, pastoring, and teaching. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5&12).

Abortion and the Right to Life

Human life begins at conception and the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life and is therefore considered to be murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

Lawsuits between Believers

Believers are prohibited by Scripture from bringing civil lawsuits against other believers to resolve personal disputes and that any such disputes should be resolved by the individuals involved according to the governing principles found in the Bible (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31,32).

Giving

All believers, as stewards of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to them, are expected by God to financially support other ministries and/or organizations of similar beliefs, whose purpose is compatible with the purpose of any such local church, through offerings that are freely given with a willing and cheerful attitude. We also believe that upon transfer of any offering or gift to a local church or compatible ministry or organization, the believer relinquishes all rights to direct the use of such offerings or gifts except that of general furtherance of the work of the local church or compatible ministry or organization (I Cor. 16:1-3; II Cor. 9:6&7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:17&18).

References and Recommended Readings:

The following list of references and recommended readings is not all inclusive, but contain doctrines and teachings that align and support those of Grace Bible Church of the CSRA, Inc. By no means do we encourage the readings of materials to take precedence above the prayerful reading and study of the inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God in the Light of Right Division.

Stam, C.R. (1985). *Things That Differ: The Fundamentals of Dispensationalism*. Germantown, Wisconsin. Berean Bible Society

Baker, Charles F. (1999). *A Dispensational Theology*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Grace Publications

Feldick, Les (2002). *Questions and Answers from the Bible*. Kinta, Oklahoma. Les Feldick Ministries

Barlow, R. Dawson (2008). *The Two Gospels. A Big Difference*. Kearny, New England. Morris Publishing

Online Resources

The Berean Bible Institute. www.bereanbibleinstitute.org

The Berean Bible Society. www.bereanbiblesociety.org

Through the Bible with Les Feldick. www.lesfeldick.org