

STATEMENT OF FAITH

GracePoint aggressively reaches out to unchurched people. Although our approach is anything but traditional, we believe in and maintain a conservative theological position.

- **About The Bible.** The Bible was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs about living. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without error. **Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Psalms 119:11, 89, 105; Proverbs 30:5; Matthew 22:29; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Peter 3:16**
- **About God the Father.** God is great: He is all powerful, all knowing, ever present, unchanging, completely worthy of our trust, and above all, holy. It is in Him that we live, move and exist. God is good: He is our Father. He is loving, compassionate, and faithful to His people and His promises. **Exodus 3:14; Numbers 23:19; Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; Psalm 11:4-6; Malachi 3:6 John 3:16; 4:24; 5:26; 14:1; Acts 17:28; Romans 3:3-4**
- **About Jesus Christ the Son.** Jesus Christ is completely human but, at the same time, completely God. He is the only plan for bringing people who are far from God back into a right relationship with God. He lived a perfect life, so that He could be a substitution for us in satisfying God's demands for perfection. He defeated death in His resurrection so that we could have life. **Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 14:33; 16:16; 28:5-6; Luke 22:70; 24:46-47; John 1:1, 14; 10:30; 11:25-27; 17:1-5; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 8:1-3; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Gal 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15; 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16**
- **About The Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is coequal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He provides Christians with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily. **Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; John 14:16-17; Galatians 5:25; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18**
- **About the Trinity.** God has existed in relationship with Himself for all eternity. He exists as one substance in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Although each member of the Trinity serves different functions, they each possess equal power and authority. **Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 1:35; John 5:21-23; 14:10, 16; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:8-10; James 2:19**
- **About the Church.** The Church is a local community of baptized believers unified through faith in Christ. It is committed to the teachings of Christ and obeying all of His commands, and it seeks to bring the Gospel to the world. The Church works together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ. **Matthew 16:18-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-47; 5:11-14; 13:1-3; 14:23; 16:5; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:10-12; 5:22-32; Colossians 1:18; 3:15; 1 Timothy 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 21:2-3**

- **About Mankind.** Man is made in the image of God and is the supreme object of His creation. Man was created to have fellowship with God but became separated in that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, man cannot attain a right relationship with God through his own effort. Every human personality is uniquely created, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect and Christian love. **Genesis 1:26-30; 2:7, 18-22; 3; Psalms 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6; 6:6; 7:14-25; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19, 21-22; Ephesians 2; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11**
 - **About Salvation.** The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the only way of salvation through the forgiveness of sin. Salvation occurs when people place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin. Salvation is a gift from God, and it cannot be earned through our own efforts. **Isaiah 1:18; 53:5-6; 55:7; Matthew 1:21; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:12; 3:16, 36; 5:24; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 16:30-31; Romans 1:16-18; 3:23-25; 5:8-10; 6; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 9:24-28; Revelation 3:20**
 - **About Baptism.** After a person accepts Jesus as Savior, they are to be baptized. Baptism is an external sign of an internal change. This is not to suggest that baptism saves a person. Faith in Christ is what saves. However, baptism is a step of obedience that every believer is expected to take to identify with the death, burial and resurrection. It is your opportunity to “go public”! Just like a bride and groom show others their love for one another by wearing wedding bands, your baptism is an opportunity to show others that you have accepted Christ and are now walking with him. It represents that you have been washed clean! It demonstrates a believers' submission to God and their willingness to follow Him. **Mark 1:9, Matthew 28:19,20, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Colossians 2:12, Matthew 3:16a, Mark 1:10, Acts 2:38-47, Acts 8:38-39, Romans 6:3-4, Acts 8:12**
- *Some denominations choose to “christen” or “sprinkle” infants. The idea of infant baptism may be commendable as people strive to dedicate their child to God. However, infant baptism is not a religious rite found in the Bible and at times leads people to equate salvation with baptism. While we recognize the right of other churches to practice infant christening, we understand Scripture to teach that only professing believers qualify for baptism. For those who may have been “baptized” as infants, you’re not deleting it, but completing it.*
- **About Communion.** Communion, also known as the Lord’s Supper, is the remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross and His rising from the grave. We do this as Jesus directed us at the Last Supper by eating a piece of bread that symbolizes his broken body and by drinking grape juice that symbolizes his blood (Matthew 26:17-30).

For centuries, churches have pulled out wine or grape juice to symbolize the shedding of His blood as well as used bread in various forms. For us, it's not about how big the cup is or what type of bread it is - it's about remembering that we can't save ourselves. It's about slowing down and realizing that we have hope in One who knows our name, knows our story with all the yuck, and loves and accepts us anyway.

We believe there is no significance in the bread or grape juice itself. What is significant is what these elements represent. Although scripture says Jesus used wine, we choose to use grape juice because we know younger members will be present and to be mindful of the convictions of some believers. Currently communion is celebrated once a month at GracePoint. **1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:17-20, 1 Corinthians 10:16-17**

**IN ADDITION TO ESSENTIAL BELIEFS,
WE HAVE FREEDOM IN NON-ESSENTIAL BELIEFS.**

*“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...
Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...
So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about
these things keep between yourself and God.”*

Romans 14:1,4,12,22

*“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”*

1 Corinthians 13:22