

Doctrinal Statement of Faith

GCG is a church family who believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It tells the truth about God, our world and ourselves. It shows God's plan of salvation for the sinners that He loves through Jesus Christ.

GCG is a member of the Association of Grace Baptist Churches South East (AGBCSE) and the following forms the doctrinal basis of the Association.

What we believe about God

1. We believe in the one true and living God, co-equal in three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who is invisible, personal, omnipresent, eternal, dependent on none, unchanging, truthful, trustworthy, almighty, sovereign, omniscient, righteous, holy, good, loving, merciful, long-suffering, and gracious, the Creator of all things.

What we believe about the Bible

2. We believe that Almighty God in His great goodness has revealed all that is necessary to life and salvation in the sixty-six books of The Old and New Testaments which is the Word of God. All Scripture was given by inspiration of God, is infallible and inerrant, and is sufficient in all matters of faith and practice. Its authority is derived from its Author and not from the opinions of men.

What we believe about mankind

3. We believe that God created mankind in his image, male and female, and therefore each person has dignity and worth. A person's gender (which Scripture states is only either male or female) is part of God's good creation and is determined by biological sex at conception. We believe that marriage is the voluntary, lifelong, exclusive public union of one man and one woman, and is the only God-ordained context for sexual activity. God created men and women with equal worth and to have complementary and distinct roles within the family and the local church.
4. We believe that God made our first father Adam perfect, holy, and upright. Adam sinned and as the representative and head of the human race brought upon himself and all his offspring death, condemnation and a sinful nature. As a result, it is utterly beyond the power of fallen mankind to have a saving knowledge of God, to love God, to keep his laws, to believe the Gospel, to repent of sin or trust in Christ.

What we believe about salvation

5. We believe that God, before the foundation of the world, for His own glory chose an innumerable host of men and women to eternal life as an act of free and sovereign grace. This election was in no way dependent upon his foresight of human faith, decision, works or merit.
6. We believe that God so loved lost sinners that He sent His Son into the world, conceived of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, unchangeably sinless, both God and man, born under the Law to live a perfect life.
7. We believe that God's Son died at Calvary to effect propitiation, reconciliation, redemption and atonement for His elect people. God bore testimony to His acceptance of His Son's work by raising Him from the dead for our justification. He ascended to the right hand of His Father and is enthroned in glory, where He intercedes on behalf of His people and rules over all things for their sake.
8. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shall come again to judge all people, to raise the dead, both righteous and unrighteous, and that the righteous shall be glorified and enjoy everlasting life and the wicked endure everlasting punishment.
9. We believe that the Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply His work of salvation. By the mystery of His all-powerful work those dead in sin are brought into spiritual life. They hear the call of God through His Word and are given the desire and ability to repent of sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. The Holy Spirit indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for worship, service and mission.
10. We believe that the elect, who are called by grace, are justified in the sight of God on account of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ which is received by faith alone. They shall persevere in holiness and enter into the joys of heaven.

What we believe about the local church

11. We believe that a visible local church is a community of baptised believers who have covenanted together in the fellowship of the gospel and under the discipline of God's Word. We believe in the necessity of baptism by immersion, into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, on a profession of repentance and faith in order to enter into church membership. The Lord's Supper is a privilege of local church membership and is administered under the discipline and pastoral care of the local church.
12. We believe that the local church is under the authority of Christ alone. A local church is

administered by the officers (pastors/elders and deacons) of that church. Under the congregational principle of church order, church members gather to seek the Lord's mind on matters relating to church life and ministry. Christ gifts both men and women for service in the local church, with only men teaching the gathered church and, where they are qualified as set out in Scripture, holding the office or function of pastor/elder.

13. We believe in local churches associating together in fellowship and mission. Local churches express the unity of the body of Christ with other churches by mutual love, care, and encouragement. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel. It is the responsibility and privilege of each local church to be obedient to Christ's Commission to go into all the world, starting in its local area, and preach the gospel to all people, seeking to disciple and baptise believers, establishing them in local churches.

Our churches stand in the theological heritage of Reformed Baptists. This heritage includes such documents as the Baptist Confessions of 1644 and 1689, The New Hampshire Confession of Faith and the 1966 Affirmation- We Believe.

We are an Association of Independent Churches. Each church has its own doctrinal standards. Each church agrees to and affirms the Association Doctrinal Statement with integrity of belief, practice and purpose as a basis for associating together. Each church also acknowledges that there may be differences in secondary matters and in the application of pastoral practice. We hold our convictions clearly and we humbly listen and learn from one another. We do not seek to impose our will or convictions on our brothers or to interfere in the running of another church.