

GBF Doctrinal Statement

1. The Scriptures

We believe the Bible alone is the verbally inspired Word of God, the final supreme authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings.

We believe the Bible is infallible and complete.

(Isaiah 8:20; Matt. 5:18; Luke 24:45-46; John 14:26; 16:13; 17:17; I Cor. 2:13; Heb. 1:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21, 3:15-16; Rev. 22:18-19)

2. The Triune God

We believe in the one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. *(Ex. 3:14; Deut. 6:4; Ps. 14:1; Dan 4:34-35; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24; 2 Cor. 13:14)*

A. God the Father -- The First Person

We believe God the Father is the source of all things and the One who sent His only begotten Son as His gift into the world. *(Gen. 1:1; Ex. 3:14; John 3:16; 5:26; Rom 11:36; I Cor. 8:6)*

B. God the Son -- The Second Person

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God. We believe He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man.

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice. We believe His atoning sacrifice is sufficient to redeem and justify all who trust in Him for eternal life.

We believe in the literal, physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where He ministers as our high priest, representative, intercessor, and advocate. *(Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2,14,18; Acts 1:9-10; Rom. 3:24-25; 4:25; 8:34; Eph. 1:7; Phil. 2:5-8; I Tim. 4:10; Heb. 2:9; 7:25; 9:15, 24; I Pet. 1:3-5; 2:24; 3:18; I John 2:1-2)*

C. God the Holy Spirit -- The Third Person

We believe the Holy Spirit was active in creation and with men in the Old Testament period.

We believe the Holy Spirit presently convicts the world of sin.

We believe the Holy Spirit is the supernatural agent of regeneration, baptizing all who have received Christ as Savior into the body of Christ, indwelling them and sealing them for the day of redemption.

We believe the Holy Spirit is the divine Counselor and Comforter who uses the Word of God to bring believers into conformity with Christ's person and will.

We believe it is the privilege and duty of every believer to yield to the moment-by-moment control of the Holy Spirit.

We believe the Holy Spirit has sovereignly *gifted* every believer for His special use in the body of Christ. We believe the *sign* gifts of the Holy Spirit were temporary. They were given to the early church for the primary purpose of validating its new message of the grace of God.

(Ps. 139:7-12; John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 2:33; 5:3-4; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 6:19; 12:1-14; Eph. 1:13-14; 5:18; I John 2:20, 27)

We believe the Holy Spirit has sovereignly *gifted* every believer for God's special use in the body of Christ.

We believe that the spiritual gifts are to be used in an orderly manner and for the building up believers in Church.

(Ps. 139:7-12; John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 2:33; 5:3-4; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 6:19; 12:1-14; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:11-12; 5:18; I John 2:20, 27)

3. Man/Sin

We believe God, by a direct act, created man in His own image and likeness.

We believe the first man, Adam, sinned against God. We believe Adam's sin was transmitted to the whole human race so that all people inherit a sinful nature and are born alienated from God. We believe all people are guilty of personal and are under the condemnation of both physical and spiritual death.

We believe the corruption of sin affects the entire person --mind, will, and emotions -- to the point where man, of himself, is unable to remedy his lost condition.

We believe in the sanctity of human life from the point of conception.

We believe God created man, male and female, and that He ordained marriage to be an honorable, lifelong union of one man and one woman. We believe any sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful and that God prohibited same sex marriages and relationships

(Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7,21-25; 3:1-16; Rom. 3:1-24; 5:12-14; 6:23; I Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 2:1-3; I Thess. 4:1-7)

4. Salvation

We believe salvation is by God's grace alone, the gift of eternal life offered to all mankind.

We believe salvation is received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose shed purchased our deliverance from sin's penalty, power, and presence.

We believe all believers were chosen sovereignly by God before the foundation of the world for salvation, being enabled by the Holy Spirit to believe.

We believe the divine nature and divine life are imparted at the moment of faith to all believers by a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.

We believe all believers are declared righteous by God in that all their sins were placed upon Christ at the cross and His righteousness is credited to their account the very moment they believe.

We believe all believers were cleansed from sin and set apart to God at salvation.

We believe all who are truly born again are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

We believe God commands all Christians to grow in grace and to live a life of separation from the world. *(John 1:12; 3:3-7,16; 10:27-30; Acts 16:31; Rom. 5:1; 8:1,33-39; I Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 5:17; 6:14; Eph. 1:4-11; 2:1-10; Phil. 1:6; 2 Thess. 2:13; Titus 3:5-6; I Pet. 1:5,18-19,23; 2 Pet. 1:4; I John 2:15-16)*

5. The Church

We believe the Church, which is the body and the bride of Christ, is a spiritual community made up of all born-again persons of this present age.

We believe the local church is a congregation of baptized believers, of like Biblical faith, who unite to exemplify the love of Christ through the personal and public testimony of Jesus Christ in our speech, thoughts and actions and to worship God.

We believe in the self-government of the local church, under Christ, free from an external authority or control.

We believe the local church is commanded to observe two ordinances: believer's baptism and communion.

We believe the Church is commanded to proclaim the gospel to all nations and to nurture believers unto maturity in Christ. *(Matt. 16:18; 28:18-20 Acts 2:41-47; 9:31; 14:21-23,27; 20:17,28-32; I Cor. 11:23-28; 2 Cor. 5:20; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:11-12; 5:25-27)*

6. Angels

We believe angels are spirit beings of limited power who were created to serve and worship God. The holy angels continue to serve God according to His purpose.

We believe Satan was created holy but rebelled against the Creator, involving numerous angels in his fall. He then introduced sin to the human race by the temptation of our first parents, Adam and Eve.

We believe Satan's power is limited and his reign on this earth will end when he is judged and cast into the lake of fire for all eternity.

We believe Satan's control over Christians is limited to influences which may be resisted by the believer. *(Gen. 3:1-5; Job 1:6-7; Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 6:10-18; Heb. 1:4-14; James 4:7; I Pet. 5:8-9; Rev. 5:11; 20:10)*

7. Future Events

We believe in the imminent return of Jesus Christ for His Church, prior to the Tribulation period, at which time all church age saints will be raised, glorified, and rewarded.

We believe Christ will return at the end of the Tribulation to set up His Millennial kingdom, overthrow Satan, and re-gather Israel to their promised land according to the Old Testament promises.

We believe in the physical resurrection of all the dead: A) The unsaved to eternal separation from God with judgment in the lake of fire; B) The saved to enjoy life eternal in the presence of God in a new heaven and a new earth.

(Matt. 25:41-46; John 5:22-29; 14:1-3; Rom. 14:10-13; I Cor. 15:22-24,51-57; I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev.19:11-16; 20:1-7,11-15; Rev. 21-22)