

Grace Baptist Church of Victoria — Our Story

- Our first public service, Sunday, Aug 3, 1986
 - Previous months, beginning in November, 1985, we held a Saturday night Bible study in our home
- Incorporation: May 15, 1987
- Purchased our building in Langford, Dec 31, 1998, moved in July 2, 2000 with an opening week of meetings led by Todd Sivnksty

Doctrinal Statement

- When we were getting advice for writing the bylaws and doctrinal statement, I was told, “keep it simple, you can’t anticipate everything”
 - We also consulted the provincial Societies Act instructions in order to conform to legal requirements
 - We achieved simplicity (and for the most part, I am satisfied)
 - Two areas of concern
 - Over-simplified Doctrinal Statement
 - Needed adjustment (minor) to bylaws on membership
 - **After reading, What is lacking?**
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The Bible

We believe the Bible is the Word of God. Every word of the original manuscripts is inerrant, infallible, and verbally inspired by God. The Bible is the only rule for faith and practice. It is the absolute standard of life and as such is to be obeyed by all men.

2 Timothy 3.16-17, 2 Peter 1.19-21, Psalm 119.160, Romans 15.4, John 12.48.

God

We believe in one true living God who exists eternally in three Persons. They are equally perfect and they execute distinct yet harmonious offices in the work of creation, redemption, and providence.

Matthew 28.19-20, John 10.30, Ephesians 2.18, 1 Corinthians 8.6.

The Father

We believe in God, the Father, an eternal, infinite, and glorious Spirit, utterly holy, just, and righteous, full of power, wisdom, and love. We believe that He is concerned in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He has provided salvation for all men in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Psalm 83.18, Isaiah 44.6, 1 Timothy 1.17, Romans 11.33, 1 John 5.14-15

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God manifested in the flesh. He is truly man and truly God. He was born of a virgin, dwelt sinlessly among men and died on the cross to redeem man from sin. He rose bodily from the grave, ascended unto the Father, and will one day return bodily with power and great glory.

John 1.1-3, John 1.14, John 10.30, Matthew 1.18-25, Galatians 4.4-5, 1 Corinthians 15.3-4, Revelation 22.20.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person. We believe that He is the active agent in regeneration: convicting, changing, and cleansing men's hearts at salvation. We believe that at the point of salvation the Spirit takes up permanent residence in the heart of the believer and that He continues to fill the believer's life, correcting, admonishing, and teaching him in the way that he should go.

John 14.16-17, John 14.26, John 16.7-14, Ephesians 1.13-14, Romans 8.13-14, Romans 8.16, Romans 8.26-27.

Sin and Salvation

We believe that sin entered into the world at the fall of Adam, that it eternally separates men from God, that it condemns every man to Hell, that its mark is upon every man and that man cannot escape its consequences by any effort of his own. We believe that Salvation is the free gift of God provided by His marvelous grace and love. We believe that it is obtained by the individual upon personal faith in the saving power of Jesus' blood. We believe that such saving faith will be evident in a godly sorrow and shame for sin and a turning away from the life of the flesh to the godly walk. We believe that any man who will receive Jesus Christ by faith shall be saved to live with God forever while those who reject Him are condemned already to eternal damnation.

Romans 5.12, Romans 3.10-19, Romans 1.18, 20, Ezekiel 18.19-20, Ephesians 2.8-9, John 1.12, John 3.16, Ephesians 1.7, Ephesians 2.8-20, 1 Peter 1.18-19, Acts 3.19, Matthew 25.46.

The Church

We believe the church is the body of Christ. It is comprised of all those who have believed in Jesus Christ as Saviour, regardless of denominational differences. We believe that within the institution of the Church God has instituted local members of His universal body, these being local churches. Every local church is self-governing and self-regulating, answerable only to God. The purpose of the institution is that the members might mutually edify and uplift one another and that the lost might be evangelized.

Colossians 1.18, Ephesians 1.22-23, Ephesians 4.11-13, Acts 14.27, 1 Corinthians 1.2, Matthew 28.18-20.

Missions

We believe that it is the responsibility of the Church and each individual believer to be concerned with the evangelization of the lost through every means possible, including personal efforts and the support of others through money and prayers.

Matthew 28.19-20, Acts 1.8, 2 Timothy 4.2.

Separation

We believe that the Christian is obligated to stand separate and unspotted from the world, false teachers, and disobedient brethren for the purpose of maintaining the purity of Christ's testimony, the edification and protection of fellow-believers, and the correction and help of those brethren who are in error.

2 Corinthians 6.14-18, 1 John 2.15-17, Galatians 1.8-9, 2 John 9-11, 1 Corinthians 5, 2 Timothy 3.1-5.