

Wall Lake Grace Church

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

WALL LAKE GRACE CHURCH

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Our Purpose

I Timothy 2:1-5 - *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2) For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5) For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Bible, in its original documents, is the verbally inspired Word of God. It is complete, flawless, and man's final authority. (I Cor. 2:13; II Tim. 3:15-17; II Pet. 1:19-21).

We believe the Scriptures are God-breathed, infallible and inerrant. They are the final authority for life and faith.

We believe the sixty-six books of the Bible are the complete revelation of God to man. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

We are unashamedly literalist in our method of study and adhere to the principle God has set forth in the scriptures to rightly divide the Bible dispensationally. (2 Timothy 2:15)

We believe the application of Scripture is determined by the author, not the reader, and that unless obviously shown or stated otherwise, the words of the text mean what the words in the historic and literal context would normally mean.

The Godhead

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 1 John 5:7, Ephesians 4:4-6; Acts 5:3-4; Gal. 1:1, Heb. 1:8).

Each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (1 John 5:7; Matthew 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

God the Father

We believe all things are of God the Father. He is above all and through all things and to Him all glory and honor is due, yet it pleases him that in his only begotten son, Jesus, should all the fullness dwell.

The Person and Work of Christ.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, and is fully man and fully God.

The Lord Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.

He is not only the son of God but also God the son. (Luke 1:35; Romans 1:3-4; Philippians 2:5-11)

We believe that Jesus Christ never sinned in word, thought, or deed and therefore was the perfect sacrificial Lamb of God. (Hebrews 9:26)

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, so as to reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14:2; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-8)

He has always been God and did not become God at His human birth through Mary, or on the cross. Jesus also did not lay aside any of his characteristics as God though he subjected himself in a position under God the Father, taking the form of man.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through his death on the cross as a vicarious substitutionary sacrifice, and our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Romans 3:24-25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ first of all came for “His People” Israel. (Matthew 15:24) He lived a sinless life, died, was buried, resurrected and ascended to heaven. He was rejected by Israel (Acts 2:22-24; 3:14-16) and is now at the right hand of God as our Savior, Mediator, and Glorified Head of the Body of Christ. (Titus 2:13; 1 Timothy 2:5; Colossians 1:24)

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is who convicts the world of sin and righteousness.

He is active in our regeneration and baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ.

He indwells and seals us unto the day of redemption. (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 4:30)

The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God; that in Adam's sin the human race fell and through that fall all men are by nature evil, inexcusable, and at enmity with God.

We believe that each member of the human race is fallen, sinful and spiritually dead and therefore, man is totally incapable of saving himself. (Rom. 3:23; Eph. 2:1, 8-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

Salvation

We believe that men are only saved by grace, through faith, and without works through the sacrificially shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. (Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

And that all sins are forgivable based on the finished work of Christ on the cross. (Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Colossians 2:13)

Salvation is a completely undeserved free gift bestowed upon all who simply believe the finished work of Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:12-21, 4:5)

The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

We believe that all people saved during the Dispensation of Grace are eternally saved and complete in Christ. (Romans 5:1; Colossians 2:10)

We believe that man is saved by grace, through faith, without works.

After we are saved, we should want to honor the Lord with good works in our lives, but we could never be saved by our works no matter how good or well intended they might be. Salvation can only be received as a free gift from God. (Rom. 4:5; 6:23; Eph. 2:8-10)

Salvation is the work of God and not of man. Therefore, it is impossible for anyone who has trusted in Christ to ever be lost again. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit and are not our own – we are bought with a price. (Colossians 3:1-4; Romans 8:29-39; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

The salvation of man by grace through faith is a new dispensation given to Paul, the Apostle, who is our pattern for salvation and Christian living. (1 Tim. 1:15-16)

The Church

In this dispensation, there is only one true church comprised of all saved people, which is called the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:11-16)

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the Pauline Epistles. (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control, and any affiliations or societies. Any organizations, associations, or agencies this church affiliates with are to further our objectives and are not authoritative in matters of church practice or belief. (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:28; Romans 16:1,4; 1 Corinthians 3:9,16, 5:4-7,13; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

The Church, the Body of Christ, is made up of both believing Jews and Gentiles, who together are joint heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 3:6)

We believe the local church is an assembly of believers in the finished work of Jesus Christ, joined by the seven unities of Ephesians 4:4-6 for worship, labor, and fellowship.

The Body of Christ does not appear in prophecy (Ephesians 3:3-8) and is completely separate and distinct from the prophesied earthly Kingdom of Christ, which is yet future. (Daniel 2:44; Acts 3:19-21)

We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of preaching the Gospel of Grace to a lost world.

We recognize the Lord's Supper as a memorial service to remember Christ's death in this Age of Grace. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Our Dispensational Position

We believe in a "Mid-Acts" Dispensational Theology.

We believe the Scriptures are to be interpreted in their natural literal sense and that they reveal divinely determined dispensations. These dispensations express man's responsibility in the different ages.

We believe this present Dispensation of Grace (Ephesians 3:2-5) was a mystery hid from ages and generations until the Lord Jesus Christ revealed it to the Apostle Paul.

The church of this mystery dispensation, the Body of Christ, has a heavenly purpose that is distinct and separate from God's earthly program for the nation of Israel.

We believe the Dispensation of the Grace of God, the Body of Christ, began in the middle of Acts and prior to Acts 28. (Romans 16:25; 1 Corinthians 2:7; Ephesians 3:2-10; Colossians 1:25-26; 1 Timothy 1:15-16; 2 Timothy 2:15)

Baptism

We believe all saved people have been made members of the Body of Christ by one divine Spirit Baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13), and that water baptism is not needed for salvation and has no place in God's program in this present Dispensation of Grace.

By this one baptism, every member of the Body of Christ is identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. (Romans 6:3-4)

Paul's statements concerning this "one baptism" in Ephesians 4:5; Colossians 2:12; and Romans 6:3-4 explain his statement in 1 Corinthians 1:14-17 concerning water baptism, that "Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel."

Water baptism, in Paul's early Acts ministry, was practiced temporarily during the transition period from the kingdom program to the grace program but ceased along with certain other signs and miracles, including the gifts of tongues and healing.

About The Catching Up of the Church

We believe in the "Blessed Hope". That the Church, the Body of Christ, will be caught up in the clouds by Jesus Christ Himself, when He descends from heaven at the end of the Dispensation of Grace. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13)

This event was kept secret by God and is a distinctive part of the new and special revelation, the mystery, given to the Apostle Paul for the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:51) We believe this "Blessed Hope" is found only in Paul's epistles and concerns only the Body of Christ.

This catching up will take place before the Seven Years of Tribulation begins and precedes the Second Coming of Christ to set up His earthly millennial kingdom in which He will rule and reign with "His Chosen People", the Nation of Israel. (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9)

AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

This Statement of Faith is not exhaustive of the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe.

This Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and of Wall Lake Grace Church.