

Hope in Christ Church: *Statement of Faith*

Scripture

God

Man

Grace

Church

We Believe:

GRACE: Grace is the unmerited, undeserved love of God manifested in Jesus Christ. Jesus, who is fully God and fully man, was sent by God the Father to save mankind from slavery to sin. Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a perfect life, suffered and died as an atoning sacrifice for all sins, physically rose from the dead and will one day return to deliver His followers and judge the world. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only means by which mankind can escape judgement, separation from God and eternal damnation.

Key Verses Supporting the Doctrinal Statement concerning *Grace*:

- Unmerited Love:** Grace reflects God's love, mercy and purpose [2 Timothy 1:8-10](#), [Titus 3:3-8](#)
The Grace of God is offered to everyone [1 Timothy 2:1-6](#), [4:9-10](#), [Titus 2:11](#), [2 Peter 3:9](#)
Salvation is a gift of Grace through faith [Romans 3:20-26](#), [Ephesians 2:8-9](#)
- Fully God, Fully Man:** Jesus is God, who became a man [John 1:1,14a](#), [Romans 1:1-4](#), [9:5](#), [Hebrews 2:17](#)
He had a Godly nature and a human appearance [Romans 8:1-4](#), [Philippians 2:5-8](#)
- Sent by the Father:** God, the plan architect, sent His Son [John 3:16-17](#), [11:41-42](#), [Galatians 4:4-5](#)
- Slavery to Sin:** Who is a slave to sin? - Jesus said: "everyone who sins" [John 8:34](#)
Everyone will either be a slave to sin or to obedience [Romans 6:16-18](#), [James 4:4](#)
- Child of a Virgin:** Isaiah prophesied the virgin birth of Immanuel in c. 1900 B.C. [Isaiah 7:14b](#)
God's Spirit produced Mary's miracle conception [Matthew 1:18-23](#), [Luke 1:26-27,30-35,37](#)
- Perfect Life:** Jesus Christ lived life without sinning [Isaiah 53:9](#), [2 Corinthians 5:21](#), [Hebrews 4:15](#)
He was the sacrificial "lamb without blemish" [Exodus 12:1,3,5-8,11b](#), [1 Peter 1:18-19](#)
- Died for Sins:** Jesus "died to sin once for all" [Romans 6:10](#), [Hebrews 7:26-27](#), [1 Peter 3:18a](#)
Jesus' sacrifice was part of God's salvation plan [Isaiah 53:5b,10](#), [Acts 2:22-24](#), [4:27-28](#)
No one took the life of Jesus, He offered it freely [John 10:11,14-15,17-18](#), [1 John 3:16](#)
- Physically Raised:** Jesus Christ died, was buried and was resurrected [1 Corinthians 15:1-8a](#)
His resurrection was prophesied in the OT and the NT [Psalm 16:8-10](#), [John 2:19-22](#)
- Return for Followers:** The Second Coming of Jesus is a comforting promise [Daniel 7:13-14](#), [Titus 2:11-14](#)
Jesus Christ will rapture His Church [John 14:1-3](#), [1 Cor. 15:51-52](#), [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)
Later He will come as Judge, Warrior and King [Psalm 98:7-9](#), [Revelation 19:11-16](#)
- Judge of All:** The Father has "entrusted all judgement to [His] Son" [John 5:19-23](#), [9:39](#)
All humans will face a judgement [Hebrews 9:27b](#), [2 Corinthians 5:10](#), [Revelation 20:11-14](#)
- One Way to Salvation:** The Narrow Way to Father God is through Jesus Christ [Matthew 7:13-14](#), [John 14:6](#)
The Book of Life contains the Heavenly roster [Revelation 20:15](#), [21:22-23,25,27](#)

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Exodus 12:1,3,5-8,11b The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ... "Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ... The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ... Eat it in haste; it is the LORD'S Passover."

Psalms 16:8-10 I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

Isaiah 7:14b The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 53:5b,10 He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ... Yet it was the LORD'S will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

Isaiah 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Luke 1:26-27,30-35,37 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ... The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ... For nothing is impossible with God."

John 2:19-22 Jesus [said], "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 5:19-23 "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him."

John 8:34 Jesus [said:] "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

John 10:11,14-15,17-18 [Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I

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know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. ... The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

John 14:6 Jesus [said:] “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Acts 2:22-24 “Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.”

Romans 1:1-4 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:16-18 Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8a Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me...

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

Philippians 2:5-8 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each another with these words.

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1 Timothy 4:9-10 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 3:3-8 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin.

Hebrews 9:27b Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

1 Peter 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1 Peter 3:18a For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

Revelation 19:11-16 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 20:11-14 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:22-23,25,27 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ... On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ... Nothing impure will ever enter it, ... but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.