

TWIN CITIES GRACE FELLOWSHIP ~ DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

THE BIBLE

The Holy Bible is the Word of God, written. It is only through the Bible and the ministry of the Holy Spirit that we come to know the Living Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible is the Holy, Verbally-Inspired, Perfect, Inerrant, Infallible, Eternal, Unchangeable Word of the Living God, and the only Authority for faith and practice. [2 Timothy 3:16-17; Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21; Psalm 12:6-7; Romans 3:4]

We believe and hold that God's design, particularly in our Dispensation of Grace, is to have all people, without distinction, have His inspired Word in written form in their native tongue. Inspiration first, then preservation of what was inspired, and an accurate translation. We believe and hold that what God breathed and preserved in the original languages has been accurately translated without error for the English speaking people in the Authorized King James Version of the Holy Bible.

We believe that the King James Version of the Holy Word of God is, in a non-technical sense, inspired when honorably translated from the uncorrupted manuscripts. The issue is from where the KJV was translated, i.e. which family of manuscripts have God's inspiration and preservation evident within its pages so they may be translated for the English speaking people.

We believe and hold that the New Testament of the KJV is the only English translation on the market today that is reliably translated from the inspired and preserved Greek manuscript commonly known as the Textus Receptus, also known as the Traditional, Received, Antiochian or Syrian Text.

We know and teach that with all other versions of the New Testament being based upon the corrupt critical family of manuscripts, commonly known as the Westcott and Hort Greek Text, are to be rejected along with their variant readings in the English. Doctors Brook Foss Westcott [1825-1903] and Fenton Jon Anthony Hort [1828-1892] created the critical Greek text based upon ancient Greek manuscripts which are known as the Alexandria, Egyptian, Local, Hesychian or Minority Text, including the Sinaiticus and the Vaticanus Text. Westcott and Hort's Greek text has for the past 100+ years been the critical text from which all other versions of the New Testament are based, including the Jehovah Witness's New World Translation and the New King James Bible. All other English versions hold kindredship in advancing corruption of the very Word of God.

When holding the Authorized King James Version of the Holy Bible we have the Word of God in a one book form for the English speaking people.

THE TRIUNE GODHEAD

There is one God eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Not a trinity, but a triune Godhead. [Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:21, 22; 1 Corinthians 8:4, 6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 4:4-6; Matthew 13:14; 2 Corinthians 13:14]

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary and is True God and True Man. [Luke 1:35; Philippians 2:6-9; Romans 1:3-4; John 1:1-2, 14]

TOTAL DEPRAVITY

All men by nature are dead in trespasses and sins and are, therefore, totally unable, by their own wisdom or strength, to do anything pleasing to God. Being unable is not the same as being unwilling. [Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 3:9-20]

SALVATION/JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE

God justifies ungodly sinners by His Grace upon the ground of the blood of Jesus Christ through the means of faith. This complete salvation is bestowed as the free gift of God apart from man's works. The exercising of faith, taking God as His Word, is not a work. Faith is a non-meritorious response. All the merit goes to the object of faith (Christ's Crosswork) not the subject (you). Faith is the only thing compatible with God's grace and justice. [Romans 3:24-28, 4:5, 5:1, 9; Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-9; Titus 3:5]

ETERNAL SECURITY

All members of the One Body of Christ are eternally secure IN CHRIST and cannot, by any means or any one, be removed from their position in Christ and the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. Once a person believes the gospel of the grace of God they are justified unto eternal life, which is irrevocable. [Colossians 3:1-4; Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:1, 29-34, 38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Timothy 1:11-13]

PERSONALITY AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a Person of the triune Godhead, Who convicts the world of sin and Who regenerates, baptizes, dwells, enlightens, empowers and seals believers of the Gospel of the Grace of God. [John 16:8; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13; 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14, 17-18; 3:16-20; 4:30]

THE CHURCH THE BODY OF CHRIST/THE PRESENT DISPENSATION OF GRACE

In the present dispensation there is only ONE true Church, which is called the Body of Christ separate and distinct from the prophesied, earthly kingdom of Christ vested in redeemed National Israel as a called-out nation or church, assembly or congregation, above all other nations.

The historical beginning of this One Church, the Body of Christ, began with the Apostle Paul before he wrote his first epistles. [1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:6; 4:4; Romans 12:4-5; Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:41-47; 7:3; Galatians 6:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16, cf. Acts 13:45-46; Philippians 1:5-6, cf. Acts 16; 1 Corinthians 12:13 & 27, cf. Acts 18; 1 Timothy 1:14-16]

THE OFFICES WITHIN THE CHURCH

Presently and until the catching away of the One Body, there are various offices in the Body of Christ. Many of these offices were once filled by believers with spiritual gifts, but now are filled by the effectual working of God's word working in the believer. Some of the offices no longer exist, but others do. The offices that do exist are chosen to be occupied by the individual believer exercising their sonship liberty to participate in the local expression of the Body of Christ. Fundamentally, these offices are categorized in two categories: edificational offices and practical need offices. Men who hold fast the faithful word as taught by the Apostle Paul hold these edificational offices. [1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:17; 2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:5-9] The saints at large have the privilege of holding and functioning in the practical need offices to sustain the local assembly and maintain orderliness and soundness therein.

The 1 Corinthians 12:28 and Ephesians 4:11 gifts that God gave unto men have all ceased. Those gifts unto men are no longer necessary nor a prerequisite for serving Christ since God gave all Scriptures to be studied rightly divided with the Scriptures now possessing and performing that which formerly resided within the gifts God gave, which was for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. [Ephesians 4:13; 1 Timothy 4:6-13; 2 Timothy 2:15-21; 3:16; 4:13]

GIFTS

The greatest gift is the gift of eternal life. All the sign gifts of the Acts period, such as tongues, including the spiritual gifts of prophecy, and healing, being temporary in character, have ceased, failed, and vanished and are presently not being operated by the Creator God. Therefore, the Body of Christ should not seek such charismatic renewal experiences, but follow after charity and excel to edifying; for now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity. [1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 13:9-13; 14:1; Ephesians 4:15-16; Galatians 5:13]

WALK

By reason of Christ's victory over sin and of His dwelling Spirit, all of the members of His Body may and should experience deliverance from the power of sin by obedience to Romans 6:11, but we deny that man's nature of sin is ever eradicated during this life. As saints (Lit., set-apart ones) and member of the true Church (Lit., called-out ones) we are to demonstrate obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ and love to all men. [Romans 6:6-14; 8:37; 12:1-2, 9-14; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 10:2-5; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; 1 Timothy 6:20-21; Titus 3:10]

MARRIAGE

We believe the marriage relationship was ordained by God in the garden when He instituted the first marriage between one man (Adam) and one woman (Eve) and thus set the pattern for the institution of marriage. Any other kind of relationship that is not joined together in matrimony between one man and one woman is not God's design for marriage [Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-25; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Timothy 4:1-3].

BAPTISM

In the present Dispensation of the Grace of God all believers of the Gospel of the Grace of God have been made members of the Body of Christ by the One Divine Baptism. All members are united, being members one of another. By this One baptism, every member of the Body of Christ is identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. In light of the statement concerning the one baptism in Ephesians 4:5, the statements concerning baptism in Colossians 2:12 and Romans 6:3-6, and Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 1:17 that, "...Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel...", we conclude that water baptism has no place in God's spiritual program for the Body of Christ in the Dispensation of Grace. [1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-28; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:5]

THE LORD'S TABLE

We believe “*the Lord’s table*” is to be commemorated on a regular basis in this dispensation of God’s grace as we are “*able ministers of the new testament*” and partakers of the spiritual things of the New Testament. Therefore the order of the communion of 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 is to be followed as Paul “*received of the Lord that which he also delivered*” unto us as members of the body of Christ; this is done “*in remembrance*” of the perfect sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ in complete payment of the debt and penalty of our sins, and this is done in a deep understanding and appreciation that we do “*shew the Lord’s death till He come*”. Hence, we have the honour and privilege of making an impact by displaying or shewing to “*the principalities and powers in heavenly places*” “*the Lord’s death*” on a regular basis. This “*open shew*” is made on a continual basis when a church gathers together and participates in the Lord’s Table. This “*open shew*” manifests what they thought was their greatest moment of glory and wisdom was really their ultimate demise, for God caught them in their craftiness when they crucified the Lord of glory. [1 Corinthians 2:7-8, 11:17-34; 2 Corinthians 3:6, Col. 2:15]

THE RESURRECTION

Jesus Christ was resurrected bodily from the dead. Therefore, all men will have a bodily resurrection: the saved to everlasting glory and the unsaved to everlasting punishment. [Luke 24:39-43; 1 Corinthians 15:21; Acts 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; John 5:29; Revelation 20:11-15]

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The rapture of the Church which is His Body is pre-tribulation, and the second coming of Christ will be pre-millennial. He will come first to receive the members of His body to Himself before the seven-year Tribulation. Then after the seven-year Tribulation, to receive His millennial Kingdom, over which he will reign on the earth for 1,000 years. Due to the Mystery of Christ and the nature of the Body of Christ Church with its resurrection at Christ’s appearance in the air/clouds, this catching away or rapture will take place before the seven-year Tribulation. The resurrection of the other saved will occur after the Tribulation. [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4; Zechariah 14:4, 9; Acts 1:10-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:4-6, 12-15; Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:15-31; Titus 2:13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53]

STATE OF THE DEAD

Nowhere does the Scripture extend the hope of salvation to the unsaved dead, but instead reveals that they will ever continue to exist in a state of conscious suffering. The teachings of universalism, of probation after death, of annihilation of the unsaved dead, and of the unconscious state of the dead, saved or unsaved, are opposed by us being thoroughly unscriptural and dangerous doctrines. [Luke 16:23-28; Revelation 14:11; 20:14-15; Isaiah 66:22-24; Colossians 3:6; Romans 1:21-32; 2:8-8, 16; John 3:36; Philippians 1:23; 3:19; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8]

MISSION

The primary objective of the mission of the church is to execute the Heavenly Father's will as expressed in 1 Timothy 2:4....get sinners saved and educate the believer in the full-knowledge of the truth. We do so by preaching Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery. That distinct message which Paul the Apostle calls "my gospel" also called the Gospel of the Grace of God has a built in edification process that conforms us to the image of Christ and prepares us for our vocation of the new creature in the life to come. [2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Romans 11:13; 15:14, 16-18; 16:25; Ephesians 3:3-9; 4:12-16; 1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 1:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:2, 15; 4:2; Acts 20:24, 32; 28:31; Galatians 1:8-9; 2:7; Colossians 1:28]

FINANCIAL GIVING

It is our understanding that giving today to a local assembly is not based upon the tithe system under the law, for we are "not under the law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14). Rather, giving is done in accord with God's grace in response to His grace. The tithe system was what God set up to support the Levitical Priesthood in His program with Israel. The citizens of Israel were to give a tenth of the firstfruits of their goods to provide for the Priesthood's livelihood. The tithe system was obligatory based upon the law covenant. If Israel complied they would receive physical blessings in this life and if they didn't they would receive physical curses in this life (Malachi 3:8-10). Today, God desires us to give not "under the law, but under grace". Therefore, a believer is supposed to give in light of 2 Corinthians 8-9. It is motivated by His grace. Grace giving is done responsibly in accord with being God's sons and daughters. It is not obligatory, nor does the amount need to be a tenth like the tithe system, nor is God going to physically curse one in this life if they do not give. He will reward us accordingly in the life to come (Php. 4:14-17), but that will only be experienced then and not now. God teaches through Paul, *"Every man according as he purposeth in His heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:7)"* [Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Philippians 4:15-19]