

Griffith Creek Baptist Church

Doctrinal Statement of Faith

This Doctrinal Statement of Faith was adopted March 3, 1993 to remove any doubt or question as to what we at Griffith Creek Baptist Church believe, teach, and preach.

1. The Holy Scriptures	1
2. The Godhead.....	1
3. God the Father.....	1
4. God the Son.....	2
5. God the Holy Spirit.....	2
6. The Devil	3
7. Creation.....	3
8. Sin – the Fall of Man	3
9. Salvation	4
10. Justification	5
11. Sanctification	5
12. Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.....	5
13. The Church.....	6
14. Ordinances	6
15. Separation	7
16. The Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ	7
17. The Eternal State.....	7
18. God-given Institutions	8
19. Human sexuality	8
20. Divorce and Remarriage	8
21. Abortion.....	9
22. Pastor and Deacons.....	9
23. Angels	10
24. Giving	10
25. Lawsuits Between Believers	11

Griffith Creek Baptist Church Doctrinal Statement of Faith

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible is a supernatural book; that it is the very Word of God; that it is the full, final, and complete revelation of God's will to man; that it has God, the Holy Spirit, for its author and salvation for its end; that it has truth in the original without any admixture of error for its matter; that it was written by holy men of old under the immediate and direct dictation of the Holy Spirit; and that it is verbally inspired and a perfect treasure of holy instruction and is, therefore, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

By the word "Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God but IS THE VERY WORD OF GOD. By the word "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were divine and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired. We believe the King James Version is the closest to the original Scriptures for our use today.

Psalms 119:89, 160; Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 8:20; Ezekiel 20:3-17; Zephaniah 1:1; Luke 16:31; Romans 3:4, 15:4; II Timothy 2:15; I Peter 1:10-12, 23; II Peter 1:19-21; Luke 24:25-27, 44-45; John 3:22-34, 5:45-47, 17:17; Acts 1:16, 28:25; Revelation 22:18-19

2. The Godhead

We believe there is one God eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit; with each Person of the Godhead equal in nature and possessing the same attributes and perfections.

Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19

3. God the Father

We believe that there is one, and only one true and living God; that He is absolute in nature, perfect in attributes, holy in character, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, infinite in wisdom, marvelous in power, and amazing in love; that He is holy, righteous, and true, worthy of all confidence and love. He unites in Himself the infinite, the eternal, and the Almighty Three – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is merciful and just, eternally existent, and glorious in nature. He possesses the attributes of omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

Mark 12:29; Deut. 4:39; Matt. 5:38; Gen. 17:1; Titus 3:3-7; Gen. 1:26; Psalms 103:19; Isaiah 6:3; I Chronicles 29:11-12; Exodus 3:14; Psalms 100:5; Psalms 15:3; Psalms 103:19; I Peter 1:2-3; Romans 11:33-34

4. God the Son

We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, who

- A. Became a man without ceasing to be God
Matthew 1:23
- B. Was born of a virgin
Isaiah 7:14
- C. Shed His own blood for our redemption
Romans 3:23-25
- D. Rose bodily from the dead
I Peter 1:3; Romans 4:25
- E. Ascended to the Father's right hand where He now intercedes for believers
Hebrews 1:3, 7:25; Romans 8:32-34
- F. Will rapture His Church before the Great Tribulation period
I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- G. Will return personally to this earth to establish His kingdom on the earth
Titus 2:13; Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 20:6; Acts 1:11

5. God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who

- A. Makes believers children of God and indwells, seals, regenerates, and baptizes each one the moment they trust Jesus Christ as personal Savior
Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:19, 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; Titus 3:5
- B. Indwells and fills, making a godly life possible
Galatians 5:22-23
- C. Is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them to the day of redemption.
John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14
- D. Is the divine Teacher who assists believers in understanding and appropriating the Scriptures. It is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit.
Ephesians 1:17-18, 5:18; I John 2:20, 27

6. The Devil

We believe that Satan is a fallen angel and not an imaginary influence; that he once enjoyed high heavenly honors and glorious heavenly privileges, but through pride, ambition, and self-will attempted to betray the Almighty and brought upon his head the judgment of God; that he operates today as the god of this world and the prince of the power of the air; that he is a diabolical inventor, an archdeceiver, and the father of all lies, the greatest enemy, the mightiest tempter, and the most relentless accuser of saints; that he shall one day be incarnated in the person of the Anti-Christ and in this role will finally meet Christ in the Battle of Armageddon; and that he shall eventually be cast into the Lake of Fire, the eternal place of punishment, which was prepared for the devil and his angels

Genesis 3:1-6, 3:14-15; Isaiah 14:12-27; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Daniel 7:8; Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Matthew 24:11; John 14:30; II Corinthians 4:4, 11:13-15; Ephesians 2:2; II Thessalonians 2:7-11; I Peter 5:8; Revelation 13:1-10, 19:20

7. Creation

We believe that the Genesis record of creation is literal and not allegorical or figurative; that God personally created the heaven and the earth; that God miraculously brought forth all organic matter out of nothing – He actually fashioned all organic forms as specific creations subject to limited changes within the species; that he ordained each species to bring forth after its own kind; that He finally formed man out of the dust of the ground, not by any process of evolution, but by instant action, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and that man was made in the image and likeness of God

John 1:1-3; Hebrews 11:3; Genesis 1:21; Genesis 2:7; Colossians 1:16

8. Sin – the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved, and of himself, is utterly unable to remedy his lost condition, and is thereby in need of regeneration by the Holy Spirit

Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19; Titus 3:5

9. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins.

We believe that for you to be saved you must:

A. Accept that you are a sinner

Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:10 – “As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one.”

No one is perfect. No one has lived up to God’s perfect standard.

B. Accept that as a sinner you owe a penalty

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death”. This death is described in the Bible as the “second death”, the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:14 – “Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

If we pay what we owe as sinners, we must spend all eternity in the Lake of Fire (Hell).

C. Accept that Jesus Christ has already paid our sin debt.

Romans 5:6 – “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

Hebrews 2:9b – “That he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

Christ was not a sinner, and the Bible teaches that God took all of our sin and placed it on Christ. While Christ was bearing all our sins in His own body, God punished Him in our place to pay the debt we owe. This is not something God promises to do, it is something God has already done.

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

II Corinthians 5:21 – “He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

It is a fact, Jesus Christ has already paid your sin debt.

D. Accept by faith what Jesus Christ did for you. Ninety times the gospel of John says “believe”.

John 3:36 – “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

In this verse, Jesus divides the world into two groups: those who are believers and those who do not believe on the Son. Those who believe have everlasting life, and those who believe not shall not see life. The word “believe” means “to trust, to depend on, to rely on”.

To believe on the Lord Jesus Christ means that you accept the fact that you are a sinner, you owe the sin penalty, and that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the debt you owe. It also means going one step further. It means that you

will completely trust Christ to get you to Heaven – that you will put the matter of your salvation in His hands and depend on Him for everlasting life. The moment you do this, God promises you are not condemned but have everlasting life, and that you shall never perish.

John 5:24 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.”

10. Justification

We believe that justification is one of the great gospel blessings secured through Christ for all who trust Him; that it is a legal and divine decree, declaring the believing sinner just; that it is a state of being free from condemnation which includes forgiveness of all sins, freedom from legal bondage, exemption from the wrath of God, and peace which passes all understanding; that it is bestowed upon us solely through faith in God and the Redeemer’s blood, and not by any “works of righteousness”; and that it brings us into a state of unchanging peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and for eternity.

Genesis 5:16; Romans 3:28, 4:25, 5:1, 6:6, 8:1, 8:31-33; Philippians 4:7

11. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is a divine work of grace; that it is not a state of sinless perfection attained through a “second blessing” or through a special “baptism of the Holy Spirit”; that it is an act of grace by which the believer is separated unto God and dedicated unto His righteous purpose; that by it we enter into divinely appointed privileges and thus become larger partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work which begins with regeneration and is carried on in the life of every believer by the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God; and that it is nurtured only by Heaven’s appointed means, which are the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and by the self-examination, obedience, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer of the saved.

John 17:17; Romans 8:5, 15:16; II Corinthians 3:18; I Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23; I Timothy 4:5; I John 2:29

12. Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

We believe that all redeemed are kept by God’s power and are thus secure in Christ forever, as there is no end to eternal life. John 3:16 says “I have everlasting life” – this means there is no end to eternal life. I shall not come into judgment. Jesus says He will in no wise cast me out. Those who have eternal life shall never perish,

neither is any man able to pluck us out of His hand. One of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to seal us to the day of redemption. God is able to keep us because the Bible says that we are kept by the keeping power of God. I am preserved in Christ, which means my salvation and its keeping is not up to me but up to God. However, we believe that just because we are saved eternally we are not given a license to sin, “God forbid”. The Bible says that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

John 5:24; John 6:37; Ephesians 4:30; II Timothy 1:12; I Peter 1:5; Jude 1; Romans 6:1-2, 15; Romans 8:35-39

13. The Church

The Church is an organism made up of all born-again believers from Pentecost to the Rapture, and it is the espoused bride of Jesus Christ. The Church may exist in the form of a local group, which is organized and made up of believers who are keeping Scriptural doctrines and ordinances (water baptism and the Lord’s Supper), and are actively engaged in the fulfilling of the Great Commission. We believe in the self-government of the local church free of any external authority or control except Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27; I Corinthians 3:16, 5:1-13, 5:25-27; I Peter 5:1-4

14. Ordinances

We believe that water baptism and the Lord’s Supper are ordinances personally set in the Church of the living God by the Lord Jesus Christ. These are not sacraments, but sacred symbols, pointing to the world’s only Savior.

A. Water Baptism

We believe that baptism is the burial of a believer in water by the authority and instruction of the local Church; that it symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; that it typifies the believer’s death to sin, the burial of his old nature, and his resurrection into a new life; that it is not necessary for salvation – every Christian should be baptized, not in order to be saved, but because he is saved; and that there is not one passage of Scripture that in any way teaches infant baptism either by word or example

Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 3:15-17; Mark 1:9; Acts 10:47-48

B. The Lord’s Supper

We believe that The Lord’s Supper is a memorial service administered by the authority and instruction of the local church; that it symbolizes the broken body and the shed blood of the Son of God; that it points backward to the crucified Lord on Calvary and forward to the returning Lord in glory; and that it is to be

partaken of only by those who are believers and therefore we believe in the practice of open communion

Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-30

15. Separation

We believe that all saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord, and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God.

Romans 12:1-2, 14:13; II Corinthians 4:3, 6:14, 7:1; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; James 4:17; I Thessalonians 5:22; Galatians 5:1

16. The Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ

A. The Rapture

We believe that Christ will return the first time in the air for the “dead in Christ” and the saved who are still alive at this time .

I Corinthians 15:52; I Thessalonians 4:16-17

B. The Second Coming

Following the Rapture will be a 7-year Tribulation period which will be ended by the Second Coming of Jesus when He will personally and visibly return with His saints to the earth. His feet will touch on the Mount of Olives, and the Battle of Armageddon and the 1,000-year Millennial reign of Christ will follow.

Zechariah 3:10, 14:4; Revelation 12:14, 19:11-16, 20:1-6

17. The Eternal State

A. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men; the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

John 5:28-29; 19:11-15, Revelation 20:5-6

B. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord in Heaven.

Luke 23:42; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4-6

C. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection when with soul and body reunited they shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torture.

Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15

18. God-given Institutions

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: the Home, the Church, and the State.

Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other.

The Home, the Church, and the State are equal and sovereign in their respective biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God.

Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; I Peter 2:13-14

19. Human sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of marriage between an man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.

Geneses 2:24, 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:6-9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4

20. Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery. Although divorced and remarried persons may hold positions of service in the church and be used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon.

Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6

21. Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder.

Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5, 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:24-29; Jeremiah 1:4-5; 20:15-18

22. Pastor and Deacons

A. Pastor

We believe that for a man to be a pastor he must be a born-again believer. He shall be a man who is called by God to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the church. His duties are to preach the Word, administer the ordinances, watch over and shepherd the membership, and have in his charge the spiritual welfare of the congregation and the stated services of public worship.

The pastor shall also choose candidates for deacons to be later approved by the church. The deacons shall serve under him, assisting him where directed by him.

The pastor shall be a man unmarried or the husband of one wife (this does not mean one at a time – refer to divorce and remarriage). A pastor must be blameless, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach, not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre, patient, not a brawler, not covetous, one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity. He shall not be a novice, and shall be of good report of the which are without. We believe that a pastor should not be a member in any oath-bound secret societies.

I Corinthians 9:14; II Timothy 4:2; Romans 10:14-15; Acts 20:28; I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6; James 5:12; John 7:4; Ephesians 5:11-12

B. Deacons

We believe that for a man to be a deacon he must be a born-again believer, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. Deacons should be chosen to serve by the pastor. Deacons are to serve under the pastor, serving as directed by the pastor.

“Likewise, must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office if a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife (this does not mean one at a time – refer to divorce and remarriage), ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a

deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” I Timothy 3:8-13

We believe that the deacons should not be members in any oath-bound secret societies.

Acts 6:1-6; I Timothy 3:8-13

23. Angels

We believe that angels:

- A. Are a special creation of God, do not reproduce, and cannot die.
Luke 20:36; Psalms 148:2-5; Matthew 22:30
- B. Are created to worship and serve God
Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 4:11
- C. Are spirit beings
Hebrews 1:7-14
- D. Are usually invisible
Romans 1:18-32; Colossians 2:18; Revelation 19:10, 22:9
- E. Are innumerable
Job 38:7; Psalms 148:1-3; Revelation 9:12, 12:3-4, 12:7-9
- F. Have individual personalities
 - 1. Intelligence
Daniel 9:21-22, 10:14; Revelation 19:10, 22:9
 - 2. Will
Isaiah 14:12-15; Jude 1:6
 - 3. Emotion
Joy – Job 38:7; Luke 2:13
Desire – I Peter 1:12
- G. Are good and evil – Lucifer was the chief cherub angel
Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:14
- H. Have rank – Michael and Gabriel are Archangels
- I. Are ministering spirits – guardian angels do exist
Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 18:10; Psalms 91:11

24. Giving

- A. We believe that tithing is giving 10% of one's income to the Lord. It is a moral obligation. It is a matter of love, not law. We *give* tithes rather than *pay* tithes. A gift is above a tithe.
- B. Tithing was commenced by Abram before the Law was ever given.
Genesis 14:18-20

- C. It was continued by Jacob
Genesis 28:20-22
- D. It was commanded by Moses
Leviticus 27:29-33; “Bring me all the tithes” – Malachi 3:10
- E. Tithing was commanded by Jesus Christ and Paul.
Matthew 23:23; I Corinthians 16:1-2
- F. Tithing is personal because the Bible says “every one of you”
- G. Tithing should not be periodic – “on the first day of the week”. The Bible also says that we should not fall behind in our tithing and giving.
Malachi 3:8
- H. Tithing and giving are acts of worshipping God. It teaches that God owns and man owes.
- I. It is the biblical method of financing God’s work.
- J. It is to develop man’s sense of responsibility to God. Thus it is more concerned with the giver than the gift.
Matthew 10:8; Romans 12:8; II Corinthians 9:7
- K. We are first to give of ourselves to the Lord and then tithing and giving will not be a problem for us.
II Corinthians 8:5-12
- L. The tithe was established before the Law in Old Testament times. It was the minimum of giving under the Law. Under grace the believer may be compelled by love and gratitude to give more.
Malachi 3:10

25. Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members.

James 5:16; I Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32