

## **Sovereign Grace Church – Confession of Belief**

**THE BIBLE** - We confess that the Bible is the Word of God, consisting in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, and that it is the only infallible rule for faith and life, revealing the righteousness of God for the salvation of all who believe. We confess that the truth of the Bible is both revealed and applied to the lives of God's elect by the power of His Holy Spirit.

**GOD** - We confess that there is one God, the creator of all things visible and invisible, infinite in being, glory, blessedness and perfection; all sufficient, eternal, unchanging, everywhere present, almighty, all-knowing, perfect in holiness, justice, mercy, and truth; abounding in faithfulness, love, and jealousy for the honor of His own Name. We confess that this one God eternally exists in three Persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**THE FATHER** - We confess that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the Almighty Creator of all things, and that from all of eternity He determined to glorify himself by choosing a people to belong to Him in the blessed communion of His dear Son, and that by His providential control over all things He fulfills this purpose to the praise of His glorious grace.

**THE SON** - We confess that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, sent from the Father to accomplish His purpose of grace and glory in the salvation of His elect people. We confess that while ever the eternal Son of God, he took a true human nature, conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, and in His true humanity fulfilled all the righteous requirements of God's law and justice in a life of suffering, trial, and unerring obedience to the will of the Father. We confess that having been confirmed in a perfect righteousness, He offered His life as a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of His people and thereby accomplished their salvation and reconciliation to God to the praise of His glorious grace. We confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, His sacrifice accepted by the Father, is raised from his suffering and death to eternal glory, and that He rules over all things for the sake of His Church, and continually applies the benefits He secured by His sacrificial death to His Church by the work of the Holy Spirit. We confess that He shall return, in power and glory, to judge the living and the dead and bring in everlasting righteousness.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT** - We confess that the Holy Spirit is God, co-equal with the Father and the Son, and that He is sent from the Father and the Son to apply and fulfill the redemption accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ in the lives of God's elect. We confess that in applying the work Jesus Christ accomplished, the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment, directing and enabling the elect of God to true faith in Jesus Christ and living in them to complete the life of faith to the time of resurrection and eternal union with Christ. We confess that the Holy Spirit is He by whom all true Christians live, and that all love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control is a fruit and testimony to His work by the power of the gospel, so that all praise and glory for the Christian life belongs to God alone.

**MANKIND** - We confess that with the exception of Jesus Christ, all human beings are subject to moral depravity and spiritual death because of the consequence of the sin of Adam, and are by nature objects of wrath and liable to eternal condemnation in the everlasting torments of Hell. Although mankind can attain to relative degrees of virtue and moral goodness, by comparison to the perfect standard of God's righteousness, the best works that man can do are unacceptable and corrupt. Moreover, no person, on account of the spiritual death and moral depravity to which all are subject, can come to God unless he is drawn and given life by the power of the Holy Spirit. We confess that from all the mass of humanity, God has chosen to save some and bring them to the estate of forgiveness and eternal life in Heaven, and that he has determined to consign others to eternal destruction, due to their sin and for the vindication of his own glory and power.

**THE CHURCH** - We confess that there is one true, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, consisting of all persons who are redeemed by Jesus Christ. We confess that this Church is visibly expressed in assemblies which are distinguished by the faithful proclamation of the gospel, the observance of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and a loving intolerance of sin in doctrine and life, overseen by elders who serve as under-shepherds of the Lord Jesus Christ. We confess that it is the duty of such assemblies to seek to both recognize and maintain the true unity which exists among those who acknowledge, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the One Faith of the gospel, as the Church is God's.