

HOW IS GRACE
CHURCH UNIQUE?

101

DISCOVER
GRACE

Discover Grace classes guide you to discover your redemptive purpose and live the life God created for you. Discover Grace is four classes:

101 How is Grace Church Unique?

102 How Did God Design Me?

103 How Do I Partner with the Mission and Vision of Grace?

104 How Do I Get Connected at Grace?



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BELIEFS AND HISTORY

Grace Church Beliefs

At Grace Church, we believe in the same biblical truths that have been held sacred since the time of Christ. We affirm truths that are unchangeable, yet fresh and applicable for each new generation.

We cling to the core but refuse to be sidetracked by debatable, secondary issues that are more likely to cause strife than to promote spiritual growth.

The Basics We Hold Dear

About the Bible Our foundation is based firmly upon the Bible as our final authority on Christian beliefs and as a guide for living. The Bible is divinely inspired by God, without error, given to man so that we may know and understand the truth of God and His love.

About God There is one God, eternally existing in three distinct persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and each possesses all of the attributes of God. God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and everything in it.

About Humanity God created mankind in His own image to eternally enjoy a personal relationship with Him. But by disobeying God, we stripped ourselves of His holiness and destroyed that relationship. Lying, stealing, ignoring His design for sex (God created sex to only be used within a marriage between one man and one woman), puffing ourselves up with pride, lashing out at others in anger, desiring things more than God — these are all violations of God’s moral laws. And once we’re soiled by sin, nothing we do on our own can ever make us holy again.

About Jesus Christ Before He even created us, Jesus chose to fulfill the requirements of justice by taking on Himself the punishment we would deserve. So although He was God, Jesus came to earth as a man, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross, and after three days rose from the grave to demonstrate His victory over sin and death. He then ascended into heaven, and He will some day return again to reign as our powerful King.



About the Holy Spirit The Holy Spirit comes to live inside all those who accept Jesus as their Savior. The Holy Spirit serves as our Comforter, Guide and Advocate. He gives us understanding of spiritual truth and the power to grow more like Christ in the way we live.

About Salvation We cannot earn our way into heaven or buy our way out of hell. But God offers us salvation as a free gift through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. If we choose to accept it, we receive it by faith, choosing Him over

sin and trusting Him to fulfill His promise to forgive us. It is available to everyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord (Master). That faith is expressed through repentance (turning away from sin) and baptism by immersion.

About Eternity People were created to exist forever. Every person will either exist eternally in union with God in heaven through following Jesus Christ or eternally separated from God in hell due to their refusal to follow Him.

History of Grace Church

Grace Church was founded in 1978 by Ron Tucker, a young man who got his start in ministry by leading a small group of college and high school students in his home. He earned a degree in religious studies from Maryville College and served as a youth pastor for several years at a nearby church before starting Grace. Here are a few highlights.

May 21, 1978 Thirty people attended our first worship service at Machinists Hall in Bridgeton. Ron Tucker preached our first message: "Love of God."

November, 1978 Leased our first building, a storefront that held the 300 people of Grace.

February, 1980 Began second Sunday morning service! Bought six acres on which the Auditorium stands.

August, 1980 Bought Penn Junction Baptist Church (the brick part of Bldg Section C). 1200 attending.

Summer, 1980–August, 1981 Began construction on Phase I of our building. Built Section A, our Auditorium, the first Children's Ministry rooms and offices.

September, 1981 Grace Christian School opened.

December, 1981 Added Balcony to the Auditorium.

Summer, 1982 Released *What a Mighty God*, the first of many Grace worship albums to spread across the country and ignite the beginning of Hosanna Records, the first company to produce contemporary worship albums.

July, 1983 Launched Vision to Grow, our first building campaign. 1,480 families committed to give \$4.2 million over three years.

1984 Added Gym (D) to the east end and the Educational Bldg (C) at west end of the Annex (C).

March, 1985 Phase II expansion added 75-ft. extension to Section A, bookstore, prayer room, additional foyers and tunnel to the Ed Building.

July, 1986 Expanded our outreach to the poor by building a Benevolence Ministry storehouse on land that has since been swallowed by the quarry.

April, 1987 Held our first Saturday night service!

November, 1987 Restructured our weekend services to better reach



the lost. Set our hearts on reaching people in need of Jesus.

Summer, 1995 Tore down storefront, replaced with landscaping and additional parking.

Summer, 2002 Launched the Connecting Grace building campaign, covering approximately 110,000 square feet. Members pledged nearly \$10 million. Over the next few years the campaign allowed us to:

- ▶ Add 5.5 acres
- ▶ Connect the buildings with the new Atrium for fellowship, the Café, the 2-level walkway and the baptistery

- ▶ Build The Foundry for the students to meet in
- ▶ Add Grace Church Road giving us an exit with a stoplight
- ▶ Build the 90-foot-tall cross that can be seen from highways 70 and 270
- ▶ Open the 500-seat Atrium Chapel for services, weddings and funerals

April, 2011 Merged Frontline Fellowship Church in Granite City to serve as our East Campus!

December, 2015 Opened Children's Ministry in the Atrium basement (Section B).

January, 2019 Added space for Special Edition ministry.

Leadership Team Maryland Heights



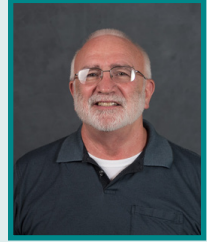
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SALVATION: THE NEW CREATION

God created us to be with Him.

Psalm 100:3 says: *Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His.*

Our sins separate us from

God. The man and woman in paradise were given the freedom to choose, and they chose to disobey and go their own way.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (We are all on that list, no exceptions.)
Romans 3:23

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our (very best) deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.
Isaiah 64:6

That is why we need a Savior.

We're all broken at the heart level, and there's nothing we can do to fix ourselves.

Because God's children are human beings, made of flesh and blood, the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. *Hebrews 2:14*

By dying, Jesus Christ defeated death and the devil.

His innocent blood washed away our sin, which means Satan has no legitimate claim or grounds on which to accuse us before God.

Satan hates us because we're God's offspring.

God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. *Romans 5:8*

Salvation isn't a matter of trying; it's a matter of trusting.

He said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." *John 14:6*¹

¹ And it gets better. This eternal life is more than just a quantity, it's a new quality of life that starts now and lasts forever. Jesus said: *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of My hand."* *John 10:28*





You can't call Jesus a great teacher and deny His teaching. He's either a liar, a lunatic or the only way to heaven.

"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." John 3:16

Christianity is not a religion. It's a relationship with God's Son.

So here's a synopsis...

- 1 God created us to be with Him.
- 2 Our sins have separated us from Him.
- 3 Those sins cannot be removed by our good deeds or any other thing we can do.
- 4 Jesus died as a sinless human being and rose again to pay the full price for all those sins.
- 5 Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.
- 6 Eternal life is God-life; it begins now and lasts forever.

That's God's supernatural invitation for you to be a member of His eternal family. This is a gift that only you can receive.

To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God... John 1:12

That can become your new identity and reality.

You can receive this free gift by praying this simple prayer:

God, I believe that Jesus Christ is Your eternal Son, that He became a human and died to remove all my sins and give me the gift of eternal life. I acknowledge my brokenness to You. And right now, I surrender and receive Your love and forgiveness. I invite You to come and live in me. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit so I can follow You with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. Lord Jesus Christ, I thank You for saving me.

Now if you prayed that prayer and meant it, something supernatural has happened in your spirit. Jesus called it being born again. Before you leave this session tell somebody what you did.

Every one of you is now deputized to be able to speak those six things, so you too can share the gospel. This is what Jesus commissioned us to do, to proclaim the good news.



BAPTISM

1. Baptism does not save you.

You are saved when you receive Jesus Christ into your life.

Baptism is an act of obedience.

Jesus instructs us to be water baptized as a public way of acknowledging to others that we have made Him our Lord and Savior.

2. Baptism is the outward sign of what already happened inside when you received Christ.

- Going under the water represents how you died to your old way of living.
- Water represents how Jesus has cleansed you from your sins.
- Coming up out of the water represents how you are rising into a new life with Jesus Christ in control.

Jesus as example:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. Matthew 3:13-15

To fulfill what was "proper," Jesus Himself was baptized.

Baptisms are held the first Wednesday after Communion and the first weekend following the first Wednesday of each month, immediately after all services. You do not have to register; just show up. (See the blue half sheet in your packet for instructions on when to arrive, what to wear and bring.)

You may be baptized at other times as well. Call our Baptism Coordinator, Erika Atkins at 314.232.2686 to schedule baptism by a staff member, your community group leader or some other friend or mentor.





COMMUNION

1. The practice of Communion was instituted by Christ and is recorded in the gospels of Matthew (ch 26), Mark (ch 14) and Luke (ch 22). Paul's account is often read during Communion services.

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Communion is . . .

- A reminder of the price Jesus paid for our redemption
- A time for personal re-examination and repentance
- A time of worship and celebration

2. Communion — also referred to as The Lord's Supper, The Last Supper or the Eucharist — is a practice observed by all Christian churches. However, the frequency with which it is observed varies, since the Bible does not state specifically how often we should partake of it.

The Bible is clear that the sacrament of Communion is for believers only.

Communion Services

at Grace are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. For those unable to attend this special midweek celebration, brief Communion services are offered the first weekend following the first Wednesday of each month, after the 6 pm Saturday and the 9 am Sunday services. And about once or twice a year, we will dedicate an entire weekend service to Communion.

I am accepted . . .

- John 1:12 I am God's child.
- John 15:15 As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.
- Romans 5:1 I have been justified.
- 1 Corinthians 6:17 I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 I am a member of Christ's body.
- Ephesians 1:3-8 I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.
- Colossians 1:13-14 I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
- Colossians 2:9-10 I am complete in Christ.
- Hebrews 4:14-16 I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.

I am secure . . .

- Romans 8:1-2 I am free from condemnation.
- Romans 8:28 I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.
- Romans 8:31-39 I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God.
- 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.
- Colossians 3:1-4 I am hidden with Christ in God.
- Philippians 1:6 I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.
- Philippians 3:20 I am a citizen of heaven.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.
- 1 John 5:18 I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I am significant . . .

- John 15:5 I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.
- John 15:16 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 I am God's temple.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 I am a minister of reconciliation for God.

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the One who

- Prior to your salvation, was drawing you to make a decision to receive Christ.
- Comforts you when you are sorrowful or hurting.
- Gives you deep and lasting peace when you are worried or anxious.
- Gives you spiritual gifts to exercise on behalf of others.
- Helps you become more like Jesus, producing the fruit of the Spirit in you.
- Gives you spiritual insight/ reveals practical applications as you study the Bible.
- Brings Jesus' teaching to your memory.
- Helps you share your faith with others.
- Prays to the Father on your behalf as well as helping you pray.
- Convicts you of sin.
- Counsels you, helping you make right choices concerning all areas of your life.

Biblical references

Mark 14:36; Luke 24:27, 32, 44-45; John 14:16-26; 16:7-15; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:15-16, 26-29; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 12:1-7; Galatians 4:5; 5:16-18, 22-23; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:19-21; Philippians 1:6; Titus 3:5

NEXT STEPS

1. Fill out and turn in attendance sheets to get credit for this class.
2. Attend 102, 103 and 104 Discover Grace classes.

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