



grace christian child  
development center

*Parent Handbook  
Before & After School Care*

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# grace christian child development center

## *Welcome!*

*Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." At Grace, we consider it a privilege that you have chosen us to be a part of your child's life. We realize that family is most important and we will work hard to assist you in nurturing and training your child while in our care. It is our desire to give each child that enters our doors a solid foundation of Christian love. We will teach them, daily, of God's unconditional love and strive to be godly examples to all of our children and families.*

*As parents, one of our greatest gifts is our children and it is important that we train them according to scripture. Childhood will prove to be among the most important time for the development of their emotional, mental and physical development and their spiritual growth. This window of opportunity is only for a short time. It is imperative that we take advantage of each day to instill in a child's heart what will one day determine their character.*

*We feel honored that you have chosen us to partner with you in this awesome responsibility, and we, by working together, can make this a very rewarding and positive experience!*

*Thank you for choosing Grace Christian Child Development Center and I look forward to getting to know you and your child!*

*In His Service,*

*Jeannie Garrell  
Director*

## INTRODUCTION

We are pleased that you have chosen Grace Christian Child Development Center for your child. We recognize the important job we have in assuming responsibility for the care and training of your child and will do our best in serving you and in meeting his/her needs.

Grace Christian Child Development Center and Preschool is a nonprofit childcare center offered as a ministry of Grace Chapel Church. We offer a curriculum which is based upon the Bible. The center is open to all children, regardless of race, nationality or creed, who may benefit from our type of program.

The Center's **Before & After School Program** is available for Kindergarten age children and up.

Our goal is to provide the very best care and training available for your child in a Christian environment. We believe that children must have assistance in five areas of growth: emotional, social, physical, academic and spiritual. Our desire is to help assist you in this development. As a part of our program, please feel free to discuss your child's growth and development with us. Continued communication between home and child care center is vital for the development of a close relationship and the consistent development of your child.

This handbook was designed as a means to share with you important information and policies of the Child Development Center. We invite you to read it and keep it available for future reference. (The most current edition may be available on [www.gracecdcsanford.com](http://www.gracecdcsanford.com)) Thank you again for your trust in us to care for your child. Please remember to keep us in your prayers as you will be in ours.

## PURPOSE

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6). Here at Grace Christian Child Development Center, the Lord has allowed us the privilege of providing his love and care to small children while parents work. Our goal is to assist you, the parent, in training your child to be like Jesus, while providing a warm and secure place where each child has the opportunity to develop academically, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. Our mission at Grace is to LOVE LIKE JESUS!

## CENTER HOURS

The Before School Care operates Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. After School Care operates Monday through Friday until 6:30 p.m. A late fee will be charged for children not picked up by 6:30 p.m. (Note: Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

**\*To view current tuition rates, please visit our website at [www.gracecdcsanford.com](http://www.gracecdcsanford.com) and click on Admissions / Tuition & Fees.**

### POLICY FOR LATE PAYMENTS

The Center is a non-profit program; therefore, the rates charged directly relate to our operating cost. Parents will receive a statement showing charges for the month and their current balance. **Children whose accounts become past due two weeks are subject to immediate dismissal.** If you have any questions pertaining to your child's account you may call the office between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or call the finance office at 774-4415 x-403 between 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### WITHDRAWALS

Parents may withdraw a child from the program at any time. **A TWO WEEK NOTICE IS REQUIRED.** Parents wishing to withdraw their child, but fail to provide a two-week notice will be liable for the two week's tuition.

If at any time the services required to adequately meet the needs of your child exceed our ability to do so, or to protect other children/staff and the quality of our program, we reserve the right to dismiss your child at any time.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EMPLOYMENT, ETC.

If any changes occur in your name, physical and/or mailing address, telephone number, employment, or child's physician, please notify the office immediately. We need this information in the event of an emergency. The classroom teacher will receive this information from the child development center office.

### POLICY FOR LATE PICK UP

The center closes at 6:30 p.m. We ask that parents cooperate in picking their children up on time. In case of emergency resulting in a parent being delayed, please call the center and inform the staff.

### LATE FEES:

- ❖ 6:30-6:45 - \$25.00
- ❖ After 6:45 - \* \$1.00 for each additional minute beyond 6:45 p.m., in additions to the already assessed \$25.00 late fee. You will be invoiced for the amount owed.

**\*This must be paid within 7 days after you receive the billing statement for your child to remain in the center.**

## **CLOSING/INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

If it becomes necessary to close or delay the opening of the Child Development Center due to severe weather or other reasons beyond our control, announcements will be made on Facebook and television (WRAL-TV 5). If the child care center has a delayed opening (9:00 a.m. or later) breakfast will not be served. Our center does **not** follow the Lee County Public School or Grace Christian School Adverse Weather closings. We will make all attempts to be open, but we will have to take our employees safety into consideration. Please watch for our Facebook posts and T.V. for Grace Christian Child Development Center Sanford. **\*There are no credits or discounts given on days the center closes due to bad weather or when the center has to close for reasons beyond our control.**

## **CLOSED/OBSERVED HOLIDAYS**

Labor Day

Veterans Day

Thanksgiving Holiday (Thursday and Friday)

Christmas Holiday (Christmas Eve, Christmas day & day after)

New Years Day

Good Friday

Memorial Day

Independence Day-JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> (or designated observed day)

## **PROCEDURE FOR RELEASE**

In the event that your child would be picked up by someone other than yourself or another parent, please notify the center director. Please have that person be ready to show current I.D. to the child's teacher in order for us to release your child. No child will be released to anyone suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Afternoon telephone messages to the center should be made before 3:00 p.m. if it relates to someone other than the parent picking up the child. After 3:00 p.m. teachers and children are many times outside on the playground or in the Gym, therefore, relaying messages becomes very difficult.

## **DISCIPLINE**

In most cases, for children under the age of 2, the best method of discipline is diversion. Every effort will be made to channel the child's interest in other directions before using disciplinary actions. If this is not effective, TIME OUT will be used. "Time Out" is the removal of a child for a short period of time (3 to 5 minutes) from a situation in which the child is misbehaving and has not responded to other discipline techniques. The "time-out" space, usually a chair, is located away from classroom activity but within the teacher's sight. During "time-out", the child has a chance to think about the misbehavior which led to his/her removal from the group. After a brief interval of no more than 5 minutes, the teacher discusses the incident and appropriate behavior with the child. When the child returns to the group, the incident is over and the child is treated with the same affection and respect shown the other children. If this is not

successful, a conference with the teacher, director, and parent(s) will be called to discuss methods which can be used at home and at school to promote more appropriate behavior. If after the conference, the behavior problem continues, then we will call the parents and ask that the child be picked up immediately. You will be allowed to bring the child back the next day on a probation period. If the inappropriate behavior continues, the parent will be asked to keep the child out of school for a complete day, and then bring them back on a probation period. Keep in mind; we reserve the right to dismiss the child for the program at any time.

### **BIRTHDAYS & SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

Parents are welcome to send store bought and sealed food, such as cookies or cupcakes to share with their children's class on birthdays or special occasions. Please let your child's teacher know in advance that you will bring a treat. Although the exchange of gifts is not permitted, you may provide party favors for each child in the class. For safety purposes, balloons are not allowed.

### **VISITATION**

Keep in mind, your child as well as the other children act differently when parents are in the room. Please feel free to pick your child up anytime during the day without prior arrangements.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS & PUBLICITY**

Photographs of the children participating in our program may be taken throughout the year and published in newspapers, brochures, social media, etc. If you do not wish for your child's picture to be taken or used, it will be your responsibility to notify the director of the program within 10 days of your child's enrollment. Otherwise, it will be assumed that your permission is granted.

### **OUTSIDE PLAY**

Weather permitting; children go outside daily. Children will not be allowed to stay indoors while their class is outside. If your child is too ill to participate in outside activities, please keep him/her at home.

### **ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

Any evidence of abuse or neglect will be documented by the teacher and director and will be reported to the local director of social services for investigation.

### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

If any changes occur in your name, physical and/or mailing address, telephone number, employment, or child's physician, please notify the office immediately. We need this information in the event of an emergency. The classroom teacher will receive this information from the child development center office.

## **MEDICINES**

**We will not administer any over-the-counter or prescription medicines; with the exception of life saving treatments/medications.**

**We request that suntan lotion be applied by the parent before arriving at the center.**

## **MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

The State requires that one person on site maintains certification in CPR and First-Aid. All of our staff are trained and certified in CPR and First-Aid. When an accident occurs proper care is given by the teacher. Depending on the extent and severity of the injury, parents may be notified. If, at the discretion of the teacher/staff member, the injury calls for immediate medical attention, EMS (911) will be called. The child will be transported to the nearest hospital by EMS. Parents are responsible for any expenses incurred. The EMS will be called in the event a child would have a convulsion or seizure.

## **SICK CHILDREN AND EPIDEMIC CONTROL**

Due to regulations mandated by the state of NC this center will not care for children with the following symptoms:

- ❖ A temperature 100 degrees auxiliary or 101 orally. We do not administer Tylenol or other fever reducing medications. Please do not bring your child into the center if they are taking Tylenol or Advil for a fever.
- ❖ Not capable of participating in routine group activities.
- ❖ A sudden onset of diarrhea characterized by an increased number of bowel movements compared to the child's normal pattern and with increased stool water.
- ❖ Have two or more episodes of vomiting within a 12 hour period.
- ❖ Have red eye with white or yellow discharge until 24 hours after treatment.
- ❖ Have scabies or lice.
- ❖ Have known chicken pox, a rash suggestive of chicken pox or any other unexplained rash.
- ❖ Have strep throat, until 24 hours after the treatment has started.
- ❖ Have tuberculosis, until a health professional states that the child is not infectious.
- ❖ Have pertussis, until 5 days after appropriate antibiotic treatment.
- ❖ Have hepatitis A virus infection, until one week after onset of illness or jaundice.
- ❖ Have impetigo, until 24 hours after treatment.
- ❖ Have a physician's or other health professional's written order that the child be separated from other children. This is stated from rule .0804 in the state childcare requirements.
- ❖ Have Hand, Foot, and Mouth, until blisters are scabbed over and absolutely no fever.

If a child shows evidence of any contagious disease, fever, or nausea while at the center, we will immediately call you and inform you of his/her illness.

According to the severity of the illness, we will request that you have someone

pick up your child. We do not have the facilities or personnel to care for sick children. **Please notify the daycare office if your child has a contagious disease.**

**Children with an auxiliary temperature of 100 degrees or above should not return to the center until 24 hours after the child's temperature has returned to normal.**

If your child was sick during the night, vomiting or running a fever, he/she should not attend the center the following day. Please do not give him/her aspirin or Tylenol/Advil and bring him/her in. In most cases the child will run a fever within 2 or 3 hours after the aspirin was given, therefore making him/her contagious to the other children. One parent not abiding by the policy may cause several parents time away from their work, costly medical bills and most importantly, a sick child. Failure to abide by the above policy may result in the child's dismissal from the child development center.

### **PERSONAL ARTICLES**

It is acceptable to send a change of clothes for your child to wear during playtime. Please label all clothing . . . coats, hats, sweaters, plastic pants, and training pants. The center is not responsible for the loss of personal property whether the loss occurs by theft, fire, or any other cause.

### **Folders and Boxes**

Each child will have his/her own folder or box in the classroom where the teacher and Director can place any information to go home with your child. Please make sure that you check your child's folder or box daily.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Each classroom has a bulletin board located in the hall beside the classroom door. The bulletin boards were established to keep parents better informed on our program. Menus, center events, and other information are posted on these boards.

### **POLICY FOR DISMISSAL**

Grace Christian Child Development Center reserves the right to dismiss any child for any behavior considered disruptive, aggressive or disrespectful to either the staff or other children. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Each incident will be considered on a case by case basis and documented. It will be placed in the child's file and the parents notified. If the behavior is consistent and/or behavior is not corrected and all appropriate methods of discipline have been exhausted, your child may be dismissed from the center.

Course of action is as follows:

- ❖ Parents notified of child's behavior by either written or verbal means
- ❖ Conference with child's teacher
- ❖ Conference with Center Director

Children are subject to immediate dismissal if a parent/guardian/or designated person shows any sign of aggression or disrespect to any staff or children, verbally or physically reprimands another child, or uses insulting words or actions or displays acts of violence while on our campus.

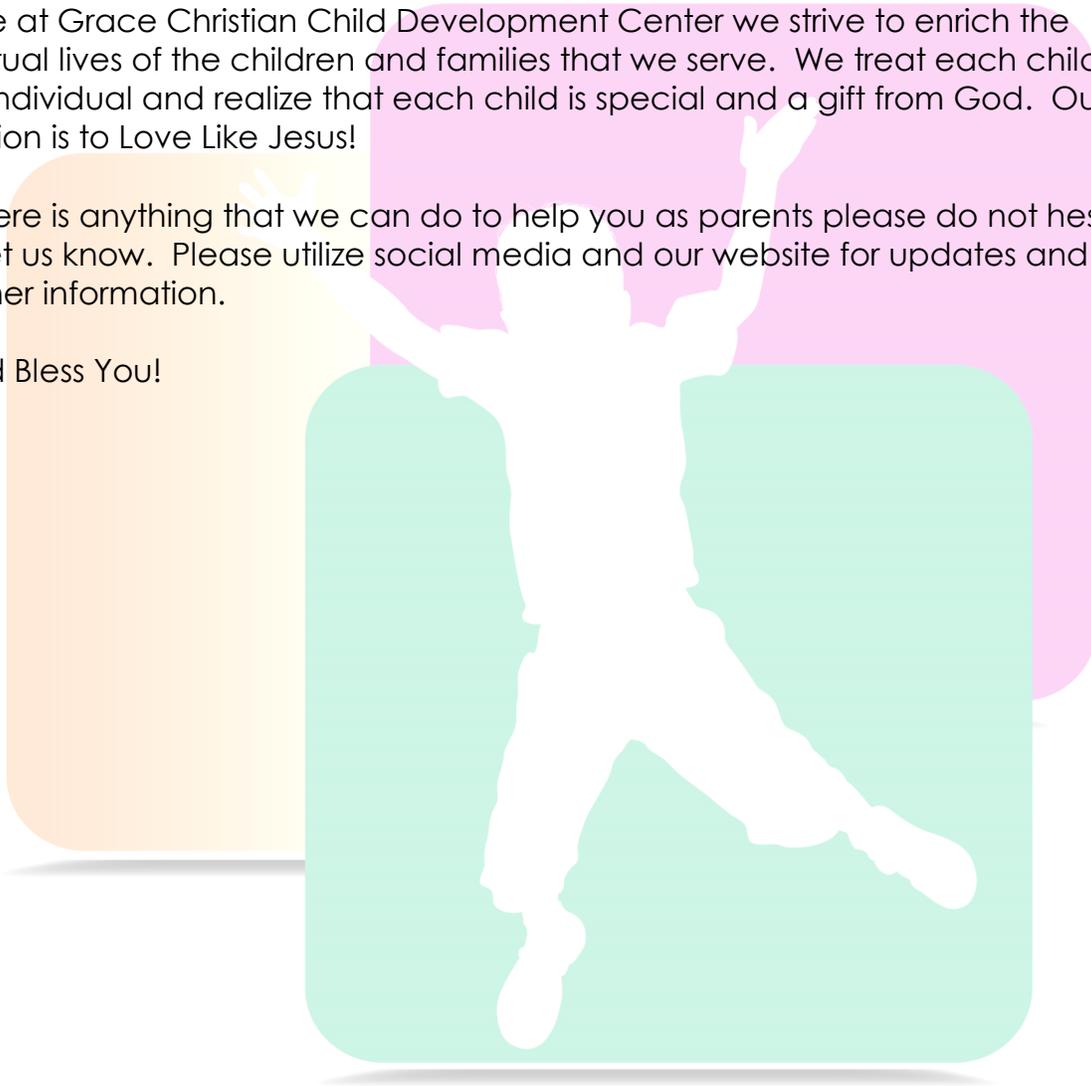
### **FINAL WORDS**

We would like to thank you for your interest in our program, and hope you will find our center to be a warm and caring place for your child.

Here at Grace Christian Child Development Center we strive to enrich the spiritual lives of the children and families that we serve. We treat each child as an individual and realize that each child is special and a gift from God. Our Mission is to Love Like Jesus!

If there is anything that we can do to help you as parents please do not hesitate to let us know. Please utilize social media and our website for updates and further information.

God Bless You!



## **Grace Chapel Church's-ARTICLES & STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**1. HOLY SCRIPTURES:** accepting fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts and, therefore, wholly without error as originally given of God, altogether sufficient in themselves as our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice. *1 Cor. 2:13; 10:11; 11 Tim. 3:16, 17; 1 Peter 1:21.*

**2. ONE TRIUNE GOD:** who is personal, spirit, sovereign, perfect, infinite, and eternal in His being, holiness, love, wisdom, and power. He is absolutely separate and above the world as the upholder of all things: self-existent and self-revealing in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each having a distinct ministry in God's relationship to His creation and people. *Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:2, 3; 1 Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11; John 10:30.*

**3. LORD JESUS CHRIST:** who is the second Person of the Triune God, the eternal Word and Only Begotten Son; that without any change in His divine Person, He became man by miracle of the Virgin Birth, thus to continue forever as both God and true Man, One person with two natures; that as man He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin; the perfect Lamb of God who gave Himself in death upon the cross, becoming there the sin of the world, and suffering its full penalty of divine wrath in our stead; that He arose bodily from the grave and was glorified; that as our great High Priest He ascended into Heaven, there to appear before the face of God as our Advocate and Intercessor. *Isa. 7:14, 9:6; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:30-35; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18; 3:16; Phil. 2:5-8; Rom. 3:25-26; 1 Cor. 5:14; Heb. 10:5-19; 1 Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 John 2:1.*

**4. HOLY SPIRIT:** who is the third Person of the Trinity, and the divine Agent in nature, revelation and redemption; that He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment; that He regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals, and anoints all who become children of God through Christ; that He further empowers, guides, teaches, sanctifies, and fills each believer who daily surrenders to Him. *John 16:7-11, 14:7; 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:10, 12:13; Eph. 1:13, 4:30; 1 John 2:20-27; 1 Peter 1:1.*

**5. EXISTENCE OF SATAN:** who originally was created by God, but through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God, thus becoming utterly depraved in character, the great adversary of God and His people, leader of all other evil angels and spirits, the receiver and god of this present world; that his powers are vast, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God who overrules all his wicked devices for good; that he was defeated, judged at the cross, and therefore his final doom is certain; that we are able to resist and overcome him only in the armor of God, by the blood of the Lamb and through the power of the Holy Spirit. *John 1:6-7; Ezek. 28:11-19; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 2:2; John 12:31; 11 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10.*

**6. ALL MEN ARE BY NATURE AND CHOICE SINFUL AND LOST:**

that man was the direct creation of God, made in His image and likeness; that by personal disobedience to the revealed will of God, man became a sinful creature, the father of a fallen race which is universally sinful in both nature and practice, thus alienated from the life and family of God, under the righteous judgment and wrath of God, and has within himself no possible means of salvation. *Gen. 1:26, 2:17; Psa. 14:1-2, 51:5; Jer. 17:9; John 3:6, 5:40, 6:53; Rom.3:10-19, 8:6-7; Eph. 2:1-3; 1Tim. 5:6; 1 John 3:8.*

**7. SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH:** that salvation is the free gift of God, neither merited nor secured in part or in whole by any work of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all true believers have as a present possession the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, sonship in the family of God, deliverance and security from all condemnation, every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness, and the divine guarantee that he shall never perish; that this salvation affects the whole person; that apart from Christ, there is no possible salvation. *John 1:2, 13, 3:3-8, 5:24; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:7.*

**8. PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS:** that Christ is our Great High Priest and through Him every born-again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest; that the believer has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the Scriptures guided by the HOLY SPIRIT. *Ex. 19:6; Isa. 61:6; 1 Peter 2:5; Rev. 1:6, 20:6.*

**9. RIGHTEOUS LIVING AND GODLY WORKS:** not as a means of salvation in any sense, but as its proper evidence and fruit; and, therefore, as Christians we should obey the Word of our Lord, seek the things which are above, walk as He walked, accept as our solemn responsibility the duty and privileges of bearing the Gospel to a lost world; remembering that a victorious and fruitful Christian life is possible only for those who, in gratitude for the infinite and undeserved mercies of God, have presented themselves wholly to Christ. *Matt. 5:16, 16:16-18; Luke 24:47; Eph. 1:13-14; Titus 2:7-14, 3:5, 9; Rev. 1:5.*

**10. LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST:** that He alone is Head of the Body of Christ, into which all true believers are immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit; that all members of this one spiritual body should assemble and identify themselves in local churches. *Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 6:15, 12:12-14; Co. 1:18-24; Eph. 1:22-23, 2:16, 4:4-5; Heb. 1:3, 13; 1 Peter 3:22.*

**11. IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH:** that a New Testament church is a local assembly of born-again, baptized believers united in organizations to practice New Testament ordinances, to meet together for worship, fellowship, teaching and a united testimony, and to actively engage in carrying out the Great Commission. *Matt. 16:16-18; 28:19-20, Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:25-27; Heb. 10:25.*

## **12. INDEPENDENCE & AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH:**

that each New Testament church is free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference, and should cooperate when recommended by the pastor and a majority of the deacons with other New Testament churches as the Holy Spirit leads; that it is responsible to follow the pattern of the New Testament church and is directly accountable to God.

## **13. ORDINANCES GIVEN TO THE LOCAL CHURCH ARE TWO (*Baptism & The Lord's Supper*):**

that Baptism is by immersion of believers, thus portraying the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and cup by the believers as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. [Matt. 28:19, 20](#); [Acts 10:47, 19:5](#); [Luke 22:19, 20](#); [I Cor. 22:23-26](#).

**14. SEPARATION:** that a believer should maintain a godly testimony and live in such a way that that their lives do not bring reproach upon their Savior.

God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, and to refrain from all immodest and immoderate appearances. We stand against any and all worldly philosophies that seek to destroy or undermine the truth of Biblical Christianity. [Rom. 12:1-2](#); [14:13](#); [1 Cor. 6:19-20](#); [2 Cor. 6:14-7:1](#); [2 Tim. 3:1-5](#); [1 John 2:15-17](#); [2 John 9-11](#).

**15. SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:** that His return from Heaven will be personal, visible and glorious, a blessed hope, for which we should constantly watch and pray, the time being unrevealed but always imminent; that when He comes, He will first by resurrection of the dead and translation of the living, remove from earth His waiting church, then pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world, afterwards descend with His church and establish His glorious and literal kingdom over all the nations for a thousand years. [John 14:1-3](#); [I Cor. 15:51-52](#); [Phil. 3:20](#); [I Thess. 1:10, 4:13-18](#); [Titus 2:11-14](#); [II Thess. 2:7-10](#); [Zech. 14:4-11](#).

**16. FUTURE LIFE, BODILY RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT:** that the spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven, that their works shall be brought before the Judgment Seat of Christ for determination of reward which will take place at the time when Christ comes for His own; that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hell, where they are kept under punishment until the final day of Judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, that they shall be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire, the place of final & everlasting punishment. [Matt. 25:32](#); [Luke 16:19-31](#); [Rom. 14:12](#); [II Cor. 5:10](#); [Rev. 20:11-15](#); [21:8](#).

**17. PRACTICE OF INFANT/ CHILD DEDICATION:** where families publicly give thanks to God for the gift of a child and in doing so the parents dedicate their child to the Lord in recognition that their child was born to bring glory to Him. [1 Samuel 1:11](#), [1 Samuel 1:26:28](#), [Luke 2:22](#). We do not partake in infant sprinkling or baptism. Jesus Christ commands a person to partake in "water baptism" AFTER

he or she becomes a Christian. A “baby dedication” is different than a “water baptism”. A “baby dedication” is a public dedication of a child to God as an expression of thanks, recognizing that the child ultimately belongs to Him. Parent(s) should dedicate their child after prayerful consideration, and or if led by Holy Spirit. This can occur at any age of a child’s life; therefore, any age of childhood is acceptable for parents to dedicate their child to God. Typically, this decision occurs when the child is young – thus the name “baby dedication”.

## **18. HUMAN SEXUALITY:**

**a)** That God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged outside of a marriage between one naturally-born man and one naturally-born 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. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one’s gender. *Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4.*

**b)** That the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman for life. Marriages outside of these parameters will not be performed by the pastorate staff or on church property. *Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23.*

**19. TITHING & GIVING:** as a responsibility of being a good steward of Christ we are charged to return a portion of God’s wealth He has entrusted to us. God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and for the spreading of the gospel. We believe the finances of the church are dependent upon the spirit-led tithes and offerings of the Lord’s people. *Gal. 6:6; II Cor. 8:1-9 – 9:15; Prov. 11:24-25.*

## **20. FAMILY RELATIONSHIP:**

**a)** That men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. *Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12.*

**b)** That God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural discipline. *Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7.*

**21. DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE:** that God disapproves of divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce except on the grounds other than sexual immorality is regarded adultery. *Matthew 5:31-32*. Divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons on biblical ground may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service; they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. *Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6*.

**22. ABORTION:** 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. *Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44*.

**23. EUTHANASIA:** Life is a gift of God that should be respected from conception until natural death, a gift over which we have stewardship, but not absolute dominion. We declare a moral obligation to care for our own life and health, seeking care from others, recognizing that we are not morally obligated to use all available medical procedures, remembering that as a steward of life we should never directly intend to cause one's own death. *Ex. 20:13, 23:7*.

**24. DISPUTES BETWEEN BELIEVERS:** Believing that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian Church, the church shall require its members to resolve conflict among themselves according to biblically based principles, without reliance on the secular courts. Consistent with its call to peacemaking, the church shall encourage the use of biblically based principles to resolve disputes between itself and those outside the church, whether Christian or pagan and whether individuals or corporate entities. *1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32; Matt. 18:15-17*

**The Articles & Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe; however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. If any such literature, whether print or electronic, conflicts with the Statement of Faith founded upon the Authority of Scripture, then the Statement of Faith shall rule.**