

## APPENDIX I: GCC CORE BELIEFS

### Scripture

We believe the sixty-six books of the Bible to be the only inspired, authoritative Word of God, inerrant in the original manuscripts. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20–21)

### The Father

We believe that there is one God, the Creator, eternally existent in three Persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—each having the same essence and attributes. (2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19)

### Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man in indivisible union. We believe in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary atonement through His shed blood, His death and bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His future bodily return in power and glory. (John 1:1,14; Philippians 2:6–8; 1 Timothy 3:16; Revelation 19:11–16; I Corinthians 15:1–8)

### Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, regenerates, indwells, baptizes and seals all believers at the moment of their salvation, filling them as they yield to Him with the goal of conforming them to the image of Christ. (Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 12:13; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18)

### Salvation

We believe salvation is a gift of God received through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone and His sacrifice for sin. We believe that a person is justified by grace through faith apart from works and that all true believers have eternal life. Saving faith includes repentance, which is a change of mind about sin and the need for Jesus as Savior. (Ephesians 2:8–9; John 3:16; I John 5:10–13; Mark 1:15)

## The Church

We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ of which He is the Head. (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22–23, 2:19–22)

## Ordinances

We believe that water baptism and the <sup>13</sup>Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation. (Acts 8:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23–28)

## Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting glory in heaven with God and the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment in hell apart from God. (2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 22:3–5, 20:15; Daniel 12:2)

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<sup>13</sup> Communion is open to all who have trusted Christ as Savior whether members of Grace or not and is observed on the first Sunday of each month.

## APPENDIX II: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment

And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. “You shall have no other gods before Me.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment

You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment

You shall not murder.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment

You shall not steal.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

## APPENDIX III: SIMPLE PRAYERS

### The Lord's Prayer (Matt 6:9–13)

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### A Prayer of Repentance (Psalm 53:10)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

### Trisagion—Praising the Thrice Holy God (Revelation 4:8)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!

### Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

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For His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
Forever.

## APPENDIX IV: KEY BIBLICAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Who was the first man? **Adam**

Who was the first woman? **Eve**

Who were Adam and Eve's first sons? **Cain and Abel**

Who was the first murderer? **Cain**

Who built the ark? **Noah**

Whose family did God promise to bless all people through? **Abraham**

Who was Abraham's wife? **Sarah**

Who was Abraham's promised son? **Isaac**

Who was Isaac's blessed son? **Jacob**

What did God change Jacob's name to? **Israel**

How many sons did Israel have? **Twelve**

Jacob's twelve sons grew up to become what? **The twelve tribes of Israel**

Who did God call to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt? **Moses**

What was the day called when God delivered the Israelites out of slavery? **Passover**

How many years did the Israelites spend in the desert? **Forty years**

Who was Moses's brother and first high priest? **Aaron**

Who led the Israelites into the promised land? **Joshua**

Who ruled Israel after Joshua and before there were kings? **The judges**

Who was the first king of Israel? **Saul**

Who was the second king of Israel, a man after God's own heart, and the sweet psalmist of Israel? **David**

Who was David's son—a king blessed with wisdom who built the first temple? **Solomon**

Who did God send to give messages to the people of Israel? **The prophets**

Who prepared the way for Jesus? **John the Baptist**

Who died for our sins and resurrected on the third day? **Jesus Christ**

How many apostles did Jesus have? **Twelve**

Who was blessed for confessing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God? **Peter**

Who betrayed Jesus? **Judas Iscariot**

Who is called “the one whom Jesus loved?” **John**

When did Jesus rise from the dead? **On the third day**

Who was the first martyr? **Stephen**

Who was called to be an apostle to the Gentiles and wrote most of the New Testament? **Saul/Paul**



## APPENDIX V: BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

### Old Testament

#### The Pentateuch (Torah)

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

#### Historical Books

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

#### Wisdom Literature

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon

#### The Major Prophets

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

#### The Minor Prophets

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

### New Testament

#### The Gospels

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

#### Acts and Epistles

Acts

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

Revelation



## APPENDIX VI: IMPORTANT CREEDS

### Why Creeds Matter

Four significant creeds of the Christian faith are listed here. The importance of creeds cannot be overstated. Many protestant churches do not put much emphasis on the creeds of the past. This is unfortunate. These creeds are designed as statements of faith to make clear what the church viewed as essential doctrine for Christians. While these creeds might sound too old-fashioned to some, the truth is they are rich in doctrine and serve as important resources for assessing what the church has believed for 2,000 years.

### Apostles' Creed<sup>14</sup>

1. I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
2. And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:
3. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary:
4. Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell:
5. The third day he rose again from the dead:
6. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty:
7. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:
8. I believe in the Holy Ghost:
9. I believe in the holy catholic<sup>15</sup> church: the communion of saints:
10. The forgiveness of sins:
11. The resurrection of the body:
12. And the life everlasting. Amen.

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<sup>14</sup> "The Apostles' Creed," Christian Classics Ethereal Library, accessed February 6, 2025, <https://www.ccel.org/creeds/apostles.creed.html>.

<sup>15</sup> The word "Catholic" in this context does not refer to "Roman Catholic." It means "universal." It refers to the church as the entire body of Christ across the globe.

## The Nicene Creed<sup>16</sup>

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son<sup>17</sup>]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Chalcedonian Creed<sup>18</sup>

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have

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<sup>16</sup> "The Nicene Creed," *Christian Classics Ethereal Library*, accessed February 6, 2025, <https://www.ccel.org/creeds/nicene creed.html>.

<sup>17</sup> This phrase is in brackets because it was originally not part of the Nicene Creed. This phrase is known as the filioque, which is simply Latin for "and the Son." This phrase was added by the Western Church and contributed to major division between the Church of the West and the Church of the East. It is included here to note the difference and because Christian Ethereal Classics included it, and that is where this creed is quoted from.

<sup>18</sup> "The Chalcedonian Creed," *Christian Classics Ethereal Library*, accessed February 6, 2025, <https://www.ccel.org/creeds/chalcedonian-creed.html>.

declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

## Athanasian Creed<sup>19</sup>

1. Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith;
2. Which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.
3. And the catholic faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;
4. Neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance.
5. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit.
6. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all one, the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.
7. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit.
8. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Spirit uncreated.
9. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible.
10. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal.
11. And yet they are not three eternals but one eternal.
12. As also there are not three uncreated nor three incomprehensible, but one uncreated and one incomprehensible.
13. So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Spirit almighty.
14. And yet they are not three almighties, but one almighty.
15. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God;
16. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God.
17. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord;
18. And yet they are not three Lords but one Lord.
19. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord;
20. So are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say; There are three Gods or three Lords.
21. The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten.
22. The Son is of the Father alone; not made nor created, but begotten.
23. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.
24. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
25. And in this Trinity none is afore or after another; none is greater or less than another.
26. But the whole three persons are coeternal, and coequal.
27. So that in all things, as aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.
28. He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity.

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<sup>19</sup> "The Athanasian Creed," *Christian Classics Ethereal Library*, accessed February 6, 2025, <https://www.ccel.org/creeds/athanasian.creed.html>.

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29. Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believe rightly the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
30. For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man.
31. God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and man of substance of His mother, born in the world.
32. Perfect God and perfect man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting.
33. Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, and inferior to the Father as touching His manhood.
34. Who, although He is God and man, yet He is not two, but one Christ.
35. One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking of that manhood into God.
36. One altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.
37. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ;
38. Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead;
39. He ascended into heaven, He sits on the right hand of the Father, God, Almighty;
40. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
41. At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies;
42. and shall give account of their own works.
43. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.
44. This is the catholic faith, which except a man believe faithfully he cannot be saved.

## GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

**Arianism**—A heretical belief that denies the divinity of Christ. Any belief that claims there was a time when the Son did not exist. A classic Arian definition is to claim: “There was a time when the Son was not.” The emphasis being that Christ needed to be created.

**Ascension of Christ**—When Jesus, after His resurrection, physically went up into heaven before His disciples in the clouds.

**Assurance of salvation**—The doctrine that true believers are secure in Christ. The work of salvation is not a mere change of the will, but of God. Since salvation is of God, God will keep a truly saved individual forever. “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28).

**Antinomianism**—The false belief that, because Christians are under grace, they are free to live without regard for God's moral law.

**Aseity of God**—The attribute of God meaning He is self-existent and independent. He is the uncaused first cause, dependent on no one.

**Church discipline**—God has given the church authority to assess, correct, and restore professing believers who are living in unrepentant sin. The goal is always repentance and restoration, and never to cast off forever. This is meant to hold the church to biblical standards and should never be based on unbiblical standards of behavior.

**Complementarianism**—The biblical belief that men and women have different but complementary roles, particularly in marriage and church leadership. These roles are based on God's revealed system of authority, not men or women's functional capabilities or worth.

***Creatio ex nihilo***—Latin for "creation out of nothing." God did not use pre-existing matter to create. If he did, that would mean matter was eternal with God, making matter the uncaused first cause with God.

**Divinity of Christ**—The doctrine that Jesus Christ is truly God, possessing all the attributes of deity. He is not a lesser version of God than the Father.

**Demons/Unclean spirits**—Spiritual beings who sinned with Satan and were cast out of heaven. They are opposed to God and can influence and harm people.

**Egalitarianism**—A belief that men and women are interchangeable in all roles, including in marriage and church leadership, which contradicts the biblical teaching on complementarity.

**Eternality/infinite nature of God**—The belief that God has no beginning or end. God is not limited by space, time, or matter.

**Eternality of Christ**—The doctrine that the Son is eternal in the same sense as the Father is eternal. There was never a time when the Son was not.

**Glorification**—The point in salvation, when believers are fully transformed and perfected into the image of Christ, receiving their glorified bodies.

**Justice of God**—God's nature in doing what is right. God can do no wrong.

**Gnosticism**—An early heretical belief that emphasized secret knowledge. It taught that the physical realm, including the human body, is evil. Gnostics denied the true humanity of Christ and the bodily resurrection of the dead.

**Holiness of God**—God's perfect purity and separation from all sin and evil. God is distinct from His creation.

**Hypostatic Union**—The doctrine at Christ's incarnation, He remained truly God and truly man. He was not half God, half man, or sometimes fully God and sometimes fully man.

**Imago Dei**—“Image of God.” Humans are created in the image of God with a value and purpose to glorify God like no other creature can.

**Incarnation of Christ**—The doctrine that God the Son became truly human by being born of the virgin Mary. He did not cease to be God.

**Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**—The doctrine that the Holy Spirit lives in believers from the time of salvation.



**Intercession of Christ (Christ as High Priest)**—Jesus's role as our one mediator between God and man. His one sacrifice was sufficient for all time.

**Intercession of the Holy Spirit**—The Holy Spirit's role in helping believers pray and intercede according to God's will.

**Kenosis**—The doctrine that, in the incarnation, Jesus voluntarily limited the use of His divine attributes to fully embrace human limitations. This does not mean He ceased to be God, but that He relied on His Father in the incarnation.

**Logos**—A Greek term meaning "Word." In John's context, it was understood as the source of life. The one who upholds all things and maintains reality as it is. Jesus is the Word of God.

**Millennium**—The belief in a future 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth.

**Monotheism**—The belief that there is only one God.

**Modalism**—A heresy that teaches that God exists in only one person. He sometimes reveals Himself in different modes: sometimes the Father, sometimes, the Son, sometimes the Holy Spirit. This ignores many passages where the Father, Son, and Spirit are not only clearly distinct, but interact with one another.

**Omnipotence of God**—The belief that God is all-powerful and has the ability to do anything that is consistent with His nature and will.

**Omnipresence of God**—The belief that God is present everywhere at all times.

**Personhood of the Holy Spirit**—The understanding that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person, not an impersonal force. He has an intellect, will, and emotions.

**Polytheism**—The belief that there are multiple gods, which contradicts the biblical and orthodox teaching of monotheism.

**Progressive sanctification**—The ongoing process in the life of a believer, by the Holy Spirit, of growing in holiness and obedience to God.

**Propitiation**—Satisfying God's wrath against sin, accomplished through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

**Redemption**—A payment for sin. God rescuing believers from sin and death through the blood of Christ which paid it all.

**Regeneration/New-Birth**—A person who was dead in their sins is made alive by the Holy Spirit at salvation. The old has become new. This is a work of the Holy Spirit and is an actual change in the heart from dead to alive, not an arbitrary act of the will that can be changed back at any time.

**Resurrection of the dead**—The future event when all people will be bodily resurrected, with the righteous receiving eternal life and the wicked facing judgment.

**Sanctification**—Being made holy. This is positional and progressive.

**Sealing of the Holy Spirit**—The Holy Spirit given to believers as a guarantee of their eternal salvation and future inheritance.

**Second Coming of Christ**—The future return of Jesus to earth, where He will judge the living and the dead, and establish His eternal kingdom.

***Sola Gratia***—Literally, “Grace alone.” The doctrine that salvation is by grace alone, not by any merit or work of the individual.

***Sola Fide***—Literally, “Faith alone.” The doctrine that justification is by faith alone, without reliance on works or human effort.

**Sovereignty of God**—The belief that God has absolute authority over creation. God works all things according to His will and purpose.

**Substitutionary atonement**—The doctrine that Christ took the place of sinners, bearing God's wrath on their behalf through His death on the cross. Our sin is replaced with Christ's righteousness.

**Sufficiency of Christ's death**—The belief that Christ's sacrifice on the cross fully and completely paid for the sins of those who believe. There can be no adding to or taking away from Christ's death for the believer. Christ does not need to be re-sacrificed.

**Sufficiency of Scripture**—The belief that Scripture contains all that is necessary for salvation and living a godly life.

**Trinitarianism**—The doctrine that God exists as three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in one being, equal in power and glory.

**Trisagion**—A Christian hymn that emphasizes the holiness of God three times. Traditionally this is expressed as a hymn to the “Thrice Holy God.” “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.”

**Universalism**—The heretical belief that all people will ultimately be saved, regardless of their faith in Christ, or because they will be given a second chance to believe in Christ at some point. This is unbiblical and unorthodox.

