



# *Forty Proclamations: The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church*

## *S*

### **This book also features:**

- ◆ The Constitution of Grace Doctrine Church (bylaws).
- ◆ The American State Papers: The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.
- ◆ A description of the Grace Doctrine Church Shield (logo).

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No person can be punished for entertaining  
or professing religious beliefs or disbeliefs...

—Justice Hugo L. Black  
*Everson v. Board of Education*

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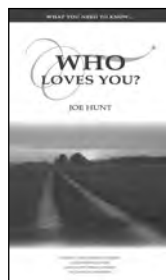


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## *Introduction*

Various churches, denominations, and religions in Christendom differ in their explanations of God's will, plan, and purpose for the human race. Referencing the same corpus of divinely inspired writings of the Bible, these various factions have created considerable confusion both internal and external to Christianity by disparities in their biblical interpretation of God's infallible truth. This confusion is further aggravated by changes in scriptural hermeneutics in an attempt to adapt to the human standards and customs of contemporary society. However, despite efforts to interpret God's Word to conform to human belief systems, God is not confused and the veracity of His Word as revealed in Scripture never changes with the passage of time. An accurate literal-grammatical-historical analysis of the Bible's Hebrew and Greek manuscripts eliminates all such confusion.

### **How may such confusion be avoided?**

Do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.  
(Ephesians 5:17)

The first mandate in this verse, "do not be foolish," literally means in the Greek, "not to be without reason"; however, this phrase later came to mean, "do not be ignorant of that which is true." Therefore, ignorance of God's truth characterizes the believer who lives his life without access to biblical norms and standards in his soul, resulting in a lifestyle of confusion, frustration, and uncertainty.

The second mandate in this verse, "understand what the Lord's will is," commands the believer to have knowledge of the Lord's plan as revealed in Scripture in order to faithfully execute God's will and purpose for his life in the devil's world. The believer who obeys this mandate glorifies Jesus Christ and magnifies His Word, and, as a result, receives His blessings and rewards in time and eternity. Conversely, the believer who does

not obey this mandate suffers a confused, frustrated, and evil existence in cosmos diabolicus under the authority of Satan and the discipline of God.

### **Where do we find God's plan?**

All Scripture is inspired by God [God-breathed] and is profitable [useful] for teaching [Bible doctrine], for reproof, for correction, and training [instruction] in righteousness, so that the man of God [believer] may be adequate [thoroughly equipped] for every good work [become spiritually mature]. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

Consequently, God's grace plan for mankind is found in the inspired writings of "All Scripture," wherein the believer is: taught the absolute reality of doctrine; rebuked for erroneous thoughts, decisions, and actions; counseled on how to think from the divine perspective; and instructed in God's perfect righteousness—all of which enables his advance to spiritual maturity.

### **How do we comprehend God's plan?**

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My [Christ's] name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (John 14:26)

Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately [imparting it without deviation]. (2 Timothy 2:15, NET)

Therefore, God's will and purpose for mankind, as revealed in His plan, requires the believer to persist in his study of Scripture under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. Additionally, his study must correctly interpret Scripture from the manuscripts of its divinely inspired, original languages:

We have not received the world's spirit, but the Holy Spirit from the source of God, in order that we might

have a permanent knowledge of things that have been graciously given to us by God, which things we teach, not by teaching from the source of man's wisdom, but from the source of the Holy Spirit, explaining spiritual concepts to a spiritual system. The soulish man [unbeliever] does not receive these things of the Holy Spirit for to him they are foolishness. Furthermore, he is not able to understand them because they are discerned from the source of the Holy Spirit.

(1 Corinthians 2:12–14) (Corrected translation.)

The Bible characterizes the thinking of human beings without Christ and doctrine as “darkness” and the thinking of believers with doctrine as “light”—two conditions of fellowship that are diametrically opposed to one another.

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another.

(1 John 1:5–7)

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial [religion], or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we [believers] are the temple of the living God.

(2 Corinthians 6:14–16a)

### **How do we transform our thinking?**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing [renovation] of your mind [thoughts] so that you may prove what the will of God is; that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

(Romans 12:2)



Only by the consistent assimilation of doctrine into the soul is the believer able to comprehend and apply God's will and purpose in his life. God desires that *every believer* renovate his mind by replacing human with divine viewpoint in order to glorify Him by faithfully pursuing the objective of spiritual maturity. Jesus Christ Himself referred to the importance of doctrine in several passages:

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31–32)

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (John 14:15)

Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God." (Matthew 22:29)

### **What is the mission of Grace Doctrine Church?**

Our mission is to contribute to the believer's comprehension of God's Word in order that he might advance in his knowledge and application of God's will, "bearing fruit in every good work," resulting in maximum glorification of Him in a state of spiritual maturity:

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work [divine good] and increasing in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:9–10)

## **Forty Proclamations**

### *The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church*

For those who are interested in the doctrinal perspective of Grace Doctrine Church, these Forty Proclamations will briefly summarize, all too superficially, a few of our fundamental, biblically-based beliefs. Additional information from the exegesis and presentation of these principles and doctrines is reserved for the churches regular Bible classes and may be accessed on the website of Joe Griffin Media Ministries ([www.joegriffin.org](http://www.joegriffin.org)).

#### **1) Teaching Method**

The presentation of divinely inspired Scripture by a pastor must be as precise and understandable as is possible. However, the attempt by finite minds to comprehend the thinking of the infinite God is an ambitious undertaking. In order to accomplish this objective, Grace Doctrine Church utilizes a system of lesson preparation identified by the acrostic "ICE," representing Isagogics, Categories and Exegesis. Isagogics take into account the literary and external history of the Bible so that a book's cultural, social, political, and religious setting may be interpreted in view of the time in which it was written. Categories result from consulting all the verses of the Bible on a given subject and classifying them into a doctrinal statement. Exegesis is the grammatical, syntactical, etymological, and contextual analysis of a scriptural passage on a word-by-word basis, thus revealing the nuances of the original languages—primarily Hebrew in the Old Testament and Koine Greek in the New Testament. Such an approach to biblical teaching was used in the development of the biblical doctrines we are about to summarize. (Isaiah 28:10)

#### **2) Orthodoxy**

Grace Doctrine Church defines its theology as Conservative, Orthodox, Protestant:

**Conservative** since we do not subscribe to any humanistic

system of philosophy or metaphysics. (Colossians 2:8)

**Orthodox** since the only accepted standard for life is found in the Bible. (Revelation 22:18–19)

**Protestant** because we reject any hierarchical system of church authority beyond the pastor and board of deacons of the local church. (Hebrews 13:17)

Therefore, we submit to no hierarchical creeds, we honor no human traditions, nor do we recognize extra-biblical experiences. Since the Bible is the only source for determining divine policy, there is no need for membership in any denomination or Christian organization.

### 3) Trinity

We believe in the co-equal, co-eternal, and co-infinite existence of a triune Godhead that is one in essence and three in personality. The one essence is deity while the three personalities are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

### 4) Creation

We believe that the entire universe—its matter, energy, and space—was created in a microsecond of time in eternity past by divine decree. In Genesis 1:1, the Hebrew word for creation is *bara'* and means, "to create something from nothing." Thus, without use of preexisting matter or energy, the universe was created instantly by the command of God (Hebrews 11:3). The Latin equivalent of *bara'* is *creatio ex nihilo*. The person of the Trinity who was the agent of creation is Jesus Christ. (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16–17; Hebrews 1:3)

### 5) Bible

We believe the Bible in its original autographs is God's complete and coherent message to mankind and its contents are inerrant and infallible. Apart from the Bible, there is no other communication between God and the human race. Without

waiving their human intelligence, vocabulary, personal feelings, or literary style, we believe God used the human writers of Scripture to permanently record with perfect accuracy, His message to mankind in the original languages of Scripture, the very words bearing the authority of divine authorship. (2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:21)

## **6) Man's Condition**

We believe humanity's original parents were perfect in body, soul, and spirit, created by Jesus Christ in the perfect environment of the garden of Eden. However, due to personal sin, they lost their perfection; their souls suffered spiritual death, and their bodies acquired a sin nature. Since Adam was aware of his sin, his sinful nature was transmitted genetically through him to the entire human race. As a result, everyone is born in sin, separated from God, and in need of a Savior. (Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:12–14)

## **7) Person of Christ**

We believe Jesus Christ is coequal, coeternal, and coinfinite with the Father and the Holy Spirit. In order to become a substitute for sinful man, He agreed to lower Himself to the form of a man and to live life facing the same pressures and trials, yet to do so without sin. Consequently, Jesus Christ is both undiminished deity and true humanity in one person forever. This union of God and man in one person is defined in theology as the hypostatic union whereby Christ is at once both eternal God and impeccable Man. (Philippians 2:5–11)

## **8) Birth of Christ**

We believe Jesus Christ entered human history in the fullness of time by means of the virgin birth. We believe His biological life was the product of a virgin pregnancy, initiated by a miracle of the Holy Spirit and delivered by Mary in Bethlehem. Further, we believe His soul life and human spirit were imputed to Him by the sovereignty of God at the virgin birth, at which point His undiminished deity was united with His true humanity forming

the hypostatic union. (Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:20–24; Psalm 22:10; Hebrews 10:5)

### 9) Life of Christ

We believe Jesus Christ in His humanity was never guilty of any type of personal sin. He experienced all the trials and pressures typical of the human experience, yet without sin. When He arrived at the cross, He did so in a state of complete perfection and impeccability. Because of the perfection of His deity, He was not able to sin: *non posse peccare*; because of the perfection of His humanity, He was able not to sin: *posse non peccare*. (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 1:19)

### 10) Work of Christ

When on the cross, Jesus Christ received the divine imputation of all the sins of human history—past, present, and future—and the justice of God judged those sins in Him. Because God was satisfied with Christ's sacrifice, man is redeemed from his slavery to sin and is reconciled to God through faith alone in Christ alone. (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:20–6:14)

### 11) Status of Christ

Jesus Christ is presently seated at the right hand of the throne of God in heaven. His true humanity exists in a resurrection body inseparably united with His undiminished deity in hypostatic union forever. He serves as the head of the Church wherein, as our Advocate in heaven, He offers intercessory prayers to the Father on behalf of all believers. (Luke 24:44–51; Hebrews 12:2; Ephesians 5:23; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25)

### 12) Return of Christ

We believe Jesus Christ will physically return to earth at the Second Advent, specifically to the Mount of Olives, after which He will establish His millennial kingdom headquartered in Jerusalem. As prophesied, He will reign on King David's throne for 1,000 years. (Acts 1:9–12; Revelation 19:11–16, 20:6; Zechariah 14:4; 2 Samuel 7:16)

### 13) Gospel and Salvation

The *gospel* is designed to present Jesus of Nazareth as Savior. Any number of details may be presented to describe His person and His work: He is both perfect God and sinless Man, who was sacrificed on the cross for the sins of the entire human race, after which He died, was buried, and, three days later, was resurrected from the dead. Regardless of how many details are given, the free will of the unbeliever must be left to consider whether to accept or reject Jesus as his personal Savior.

*Salvation* occurs when the unbeliever responds with nonmeritorious faith alone in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8–9). This *faith* response has both purpose and result: The *purpose* is deliverance from punishment in the lake of fire. The *result* is the imputation of eternal life. Taken together, salvation means that believers go to heaven when they die (John 3:16).

(Also see: John 3:15–16, 18, 36; 6:47; 11:25; 20:31; Acts 16:31 and 1 Corinthians 15:3–4)

### 14) Security

We believe once a person expresses personal faith in Jesus Christ, he becomes a son of God, receives the imputation of God's perfect righteousness, and is adopted into His royal family—once a son, always a son. Further, the grammar of Ephesians 2:8–9 reveals through exegesis that the believer's salvation is eternally secure. An expanded translation of that verse reads: "For by grace you have been saved in the past with the result that you stand saved forever through faith, and this [*salvation*] is not from yourselves; it is a gift from God, not by works, lest any man should boast."

(Also see: Galatians 3:26; Romans 3:22; Acts 16:31; Romans 8:16–17; Galatians 4:7; Ephesians 2:8)

### 15) Holy Spirit

We believe God the Holy Spirit is a coequal, coeternal, and coinfinite member of the Trinity who indwells those who believe in Jesus Christ and fills those who confess their sins

to God the Father. Through His filling ministry, the Holy Spirit is able to teach the believer all things and enables him to execute the Christian way of life. (John 7:37–39, 14:16–17, 26; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 6:19; 2 Corinthians 5:5; and Ephesians 5:18)

## 16) Spirituality

We believe spirituality and carnality are absolutes whereby neither is a condition of degree, but rather one of status. The believer is either filled with the Holy Spirit (spirituality) or under the control of his sinful nature (carnality). Therefore, spirituality is the status of the filling of the Holy Spirit and carnality is the status of the person with unconfessed sin in his life. (1 Corinthians 3:1–3; Galatians 5:16–26; 1 John 1:9)

## 17) Spiritual Maturity

Spiritual maturity is that status attained by the believer who, through maximum knowledge of Bible doctrine, understands his place, purpose, and function in God's Plan. However, dependent upon his attitude toward the teachings of the Bible, a believer's spiritual status is either advancing or retreating: *qui non proficit deficit* (he, who does not advance, falls behind). (Ephesians 4:11–15; Colossians 3:1–5)

## 18) Rewards

The believer who continuously and faithfully advances in his knowledge of God's Word will eventually achieve spiritual maturity. All proper function in life is based on proper thinking; and all proper thinking is based on Bible doctrine in the believer's soul. God has decreed that each believer who acquires maximum knowledge of His plan will be rewarded in time and eternity (Ephesians 1:3). Paul utilized military and athletic rewards as metaphors.

(Hebrews 12:1; Ephesians 6:10–17 (military); Acts 20:24; Philippians 3:12–14; 1 Corinthians 9:24–27; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:5 and 4:7–8 (athletic). Also note James 1:12 and 2 John 9.) John describes the recipient of

rewards in eternity with the phrase, "To him who overcomes" (Revelation 2 and 3). The word "overcome" in the Greek is *nikē*, which means victory—thus, the believer who is victorious is a winner of one or more Nike Awards (Revelation 2:7,17,26,28; 3:5,12,21).

## 19) Dispensations

Dispensations are distinct periods of human history that, when considered collectively, represent the progression and interpretation of the history of the human race based on God's will and purpose. In all dispensations the only way of salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone; however, for each dispensation, God has designed a different plan for believers and graciously provides the means of executing those plans. For example, Jews were expected to adhere to the Law of Moses. Today, Church Age believers are expected to emulate the prototype example of Christ during the Incarnation. Therefore, failure to distinguish between Israel and the Church as separate dispensations creates apparent contradictions between certain passages of Scripture since different rules apply for a believer's daily conduct in each (Ephesians 2:11–3:7). For this reason, a believer must orient to the spiritual life designed for his dispensation if he is to acquire an accurate understanding of God's plan and purpose for his life.

As noted in Scripture, God organized human history into six dispensations:

- 1) **Gentiles:** Began with the creation of mankind and continued to the Exodus (Genesis 2:7–Exodus 14).
- 2) **Israel:** Began following the Exodus and continued to the virgin birth of Jesus Christ (Exodus 14–Matthew 1).
- 3) **Incarnation:** Began with the virgin birth of Christ and continued to His resurrection and ascension (Matthew 1–Acts 1).
- 4) **Church:** Began on the day of Pentecost ca. AD 33 and



will continue until the Rapture or exit resurrection of the Church at a time yet future and unknown to all but God (Acts 2–Revelation 3).

5) **Tribulation:** Begins post-Rapture when the “prince” (Daniel 9:27) or “beast” (Revelation 11:7) enters into a covenant with Israel and ends seven years later with the Second Advent of Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:7–12; Revelation 6–19).

6) **Millennium:** Begins with the Second Advent of Christ and continues for 1,000 years to the end of human history. It will be a time of perfect environment and world peace under the benevolent dictatorship of Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 11:1–9; 65:18–25; Zechariah 14:9; Revelation 19:11–20:6)

## 20) Royal Priesthood

Priests are members of the human race who represent man before God. Whereas in the dispensation of Israel a specialized priesthood within the tribe of Levi performed this function, all believers in the Church Age, as members of a universal priesthood, individually represent themselves before God. Because the Holy Spirit places believers in an eternal union with Christ at salvation, they are considered members of the royal family of God. Therefore, since Christ is the High Priest, believers are members of His royal priesthood. The unique prerogative of this priesthood is the option of personal acknowledgment of sins to God the Father directly and privately in confessional prayer. As his own private priest, the believer has the obligation to learn the Scriptures through Bible study. If circumstances dictate, he may observe and conduct his own private Eucharist.

(Hebrews 4:14–15; 5:1; 1 Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 1:6)

## 21) Church

The Church may be defined either as an organism or organization. As an organism, the universal church consists of all

who have believed in Jesus Christ for their salvation. In any generation of the Church Age, these believers are called the “body of Christ” or the “royal family of God.” The organization is any physical facility established by a local group of believers as a place for it to assemble and worship God. (Ephesians 5:25–27; Hebrews 10:25)

## **22) Marriage**

Marriage is a divine institution that unites two people for life—one man and one woman. The Christian marriage is a spiritual as well as a divine institution that unites for life a man and a woman who have each expressed personal faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and eternal life. United as one, they become a corporate testimony to the world of the Church’s eternal relationship with Christ: reciprocal love and enduring respect for Christ expressed through the testimony of the wife, and Christ’s unconditional love and enduring devotion to the Church expressed through the testimony of the husband. God Himself united the first members of the human family which fact alone should abolish all light, frivolous, and unorthodox views of marriage. Therefore, Grace Doctrine Church only solemnizes marriages of Christian couples of which at least one party—the woman or the man—must be a member of the local congregation. The Board of Deacons has delegated complete discretion to the pastor regarding who the church will unite in Christian marriage. (Ecclesiastes 9:9; Matthew 19:4–6; Ephesians 5:22–33; 1 Corinthians 7:1–4; 2 Corinthians 6:14–16a; Genesis 2:20–24)

## **23) Eucharist**

Also called the Lord's Supper or Communion, the Eucharist is the lone ritual of the Church Age. The Lord commanded believers to formally observe this ceremony until His return. Instructions for performing the Eucharist are found in 1 Corinthians 11:23–26: the bread is representative of the person of our Lord, His perfection, and impeccability; the cup is emblematic of His work on the cross upon which He received God’s imputation of all human sins and their sub-

sequent judgment by the justice of God. The Bible does not indicate how often the Eucharist should be observed, only that it should be done so consistently.

## 24) Tithing

Tithing was not a spiritual function in the Old Testament, but rather a system of income taxation as a civic obligation. In fact, as part of the Mosaic Law, tithing was directed only to the nation Israel. The Israelites were to contribute two annual tithes: 10% for the maintenance of the Levitical priesthood (Numbers 18:21, 24) and another 10% for the Levitical sacrifices (Deuteronomy 14:22–24). Every third year, Israel collected a charity tithe of 10% for those in need of legitimate assistance (Deuteronomy 14:28–29; Malachi 3:8–10). Since the priesthood and sacrifices were unique to the dispensation of Israel, these tithes are not applicable today. During the dispensation of the Church, giving should be based solely on the believer's personal motivation and as God has prospered him. The gift may amount to whatever percentage the believer wishes; however, gifts should not be donated if, by doing so, the believer's family is deprived of necessities. Local churches are authorized by Scripture to permit a public offering of gifts on Sundays. Fifteen principles on giving can be studied in 2 Corinthians, Chapters 8 and 9.

(Also note: 1 Corinthians 16:2 and 1 Timothy 5:8.)

## 25) Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit immerses every believer at salvation into an eternal union with Jesus Christ, representing a real and literal baptism. It is an actual event that places the believer into union with Christ eternally identifying him with the Lord. This action by the Holy Spirit is identified by the Greek word, *baptizō*, which means to immerse one object permanently into another object, thus changing the first object. This change results in two categories of positional truth:

- 1) **Retroactive Positional truth:** At the moment of

salvation, the believer is supernaturally immersed by the Holy Spirit into the spiritual death, physical death, and burial of our Lord. Spiritual death is a technical term that speaks of the three-hour period on the cross when God judged all human sins in Christ. Thus, retroactive positional truth separates the believer from good and evil so that the rulership of Satan and the sovereignty of the sin nature are broken.

**2) Current Positional truth:** The believer is supernaturally immersed by the Holy Spirit into the resurrection, ascension, and session of our Lord, allowing the believer to share His eternal life, thus guaranteeing him eternal security and a resurrection body. When studied from the original Greek, Romans 6:1–13 clearly defines these doctrines. (Also note: John 14:20; Acts 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13.)

## 26) Water Baptism

Water baptism was a visual aid practiced by the apostles in the first century before the canon of Scripture was completed. The ritual was designed to visually demonstrate to new believers the reality of the baptism of the Holy Spirit that occurs at the moment of salvation. Being immersed into water is a picture of retroactive positional truth by which the believer is identified with Christ in His spiritual death, physical death, and burial, dramatizing the principle that the power of the sinful nature is broken. Emersion out from the water is a picture of current positional truth by which the believer is identified with our Lord's resurrection, ascension, and session, dramatizing the future reality of the resurrection body. Once the canon of Scripture was completed, believers could learn these doctrines without dependence upon the ritual. When a believer understands the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the ritual of water baptism can be meaningful; however, without this knowledge, it becomes a ritual without reality.<sup>1</sup>

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1. For a detailed explanation of baptism, see Griffin, 2005 Shreveport Bible Conference: *Baptism: Controversies and Schisms*, [www.joegriffin.org](http://www.joegriffin.org).

## 27) Spiritual Gifts

By the power of the Holy Spirit, every believer in the Church Age at the moment of salvation is distributed at least one spiritual gift. The purpose of these gifts is to officially coordinate the activities of believers in the functioning of God's plan (Ephesians 4:11–15). Some eighteen or more spiritual gifts were originally assigned to believers, many of which functioned in spectacular ways. These spectacular gifts were temporary and had three objectives: (1) to identify the apostles as the founding fathers of the New Testament church; (2) to serve as teaching aids until the Scripture could be completed; and (3) to alert Israel that its dispensation would be temporarily halted. Of the eighteen spiritual gifts mentioned in Scripture, eleven were temporary: apostle, prophet, miracles, healing, knowledge, wisdom, faith, discerning of spirits, exhortation, languages, and interpretation of languages. Grace Doctrine Church does not recognize as valid any claim or assertion that any of these spiritual gifts are currently active. The seven permanent gifts that are still functional today are: pastor-teacher, evangelist, administrative leadership, service, helps, showing mercy, and financial giving. (1 Corinthians 12:1–28; Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:6–8)

## 28) Rapture

The Rapture is the resurrection of all Church Age believers into heaven, thereby terminating the Church Age and signaling the beginning of the Tribulation. The Rapture is an instantaneous event that occurs in two stages. First, the omnipotence of God the Father raises the dead in Christ by replacing their former bodies of corruption with resurrection bodies of incorruption. Second, the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit provides a resurrection body for believers who are alive at the Rapture, replacing their bodies of mortality with resurrection bodies of immortality. Since there is no prophecy that must be fulfilled before the Rapture may occur, it remains imminent and thus may occur at any moment. However, no man knows the year, day, or hour.

(1 Corinthians 1:7–8; 15:53–54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; and 1 John 3:2–3)

## 29) Heaven

Heaven is the command center for the eternal state and is defined in Scripture as the dwelling place of God. Acts 1:11 tells us that Christ ascended into heaven, while 1 Peter 3:22 says that He is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. When a person believes in Christ, his citizenship changes from the devil's world to heaven (Philippians 3:20). Believers are issued resurrection bodies in eternity and their origin is in heaven (2 Corinthians 5:1–5); and their rewards and blessings are reserved in heaven (1 Peter 1:4). At the Second Advent, Jesus Christ will return from heaven to the earth (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7). When the believer dies, his soul and human spirit go to heaven (2 Corinthians 5:8; 12:2–4; Philippians 1:23). Prior to the resurrection of Christ, the souls and spirits of departed believers resided in the Paradise division of Hades, known to the Jews as Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22). At His ascension, Jesus Christ escorted these saints into heaven (Ephesians 4:8–10). He has assured all believers that He has prepared a place for them in heaven. (John 14:2–3)

## 30) Hades

Hades is a temporary complex consisting of four divisions with each division serving as a place of detention for specific groups of men and angels. As each group is processed over time, they are ultimately transferred to a permanent location for all eternity:

- 1) **Paradise or Abraham's Bosom:** A division of Hades into which all Old Testament believers were transferred following physical death. Once departed from the body, their souls and human spirits went to Paradise (Luke 16:22; 23:43). No believer resided in heaven until Christ was judged for man's sins, buried and resurrected. The ascension of Christ resulted in

the permanent transfer of all believers from Paradise to heaven. (Ephesians 4:8–10)

2) **Torments:** The residence of all unbelievers since the beginning of human history. The unbeliever is condemned to Torments, later to be judged and transferred to the lake of fire because of his rejection of Jesus Christ as Savior. (Luke 16:23; Revelation 20:11–15)

3) **Tartarus:** The prison for certain fallen angels who became involved in an assault on the genetic line of Jesus Christ (Genesis 6; 2 Peter 2:4). This special category of fallen angels, called *Bene ha' Elohim* in the Hebrew, translated “sons of God,” is not operational at the present time.

4) **Abyss:** The place of incarceration for the demon assault army under the command of a demon general named *Abaddōn* or *Apollyōn*. This demon army will invade the earth during the Tribulation (Revelation 9:1–12). They are released from their prison to administer punishment to unbelievers. These events indicate a radical change in God’s plan following the Rapture of the Church.

### 31) Lake of Fire

The final destination for both fallen angels and unbelieving mankind, being both literal and eternal, was prepared originally for Satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Revelation 20:11–15 is the key passage on the Great White Throne judgment and documents the final judgment of all unbelievers. They are removed from the Torments division of Hades, judged for their works and cast into the lake of fire for all eternity.

### 32) Satan

Satan is a fallen angel who led the revolt against the rulership of God in eternity past. His given name is Lucifer and he presently has authority over those angels who joined him in his revolt. He is now called the devil and those fallen angels

who followed him are called demons. His domain is the earth and encompasses within its jurisdiction all humans who have not accepted Christ as Savior. Consequently, those who are not believers in Jesus Christ are emissaries for Satan.

(Isaiah 14:12–15; Ezekial 28:12–17; Matthew 4:1–11; Luke 4:1–13; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:13–15; Ephesians 2:2; 1 Timothy 4:1; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 13:2)

### **33) Anti-Semitism**

Anti-Semitism is defined as intolerance, hatred, prejudice, opposition, and persecution of the Jewish people and represents a satanic plot to eliminate the Jews from history. God has promised the Jews a reigning Messiah who will rule them in their own land called Israel. In order for Christ to fulfill these divine promises to Israel, Jews must survive until His Second Advent. Thus, anti-Semitism becomes a part of Satan's desperate plan to circumvent Messiah's return. Every member of the human race is warned by God Himself to avoid any form of anti-Semitism: "I will bless those who bless you and I will curse those who curse you;" (Genesis 12:3). Consequently, Grace Doctrine Church stands in righteous opposition to any vestige of anti-Semitic thought, comment, or action. Further, anyone associated with this church that engages in anti-Semitic actions will be expelled from the fellowship. (Zechariah 2:8–9; Revelation 12)

### **34) Human Good and Evil**

Human good and evil defines the insidious plan and policy of Satan as ruler of this world who aspires to "be like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:14). He attempts to accomplish this prodigious undertaking by promoting human works as a catalyst for social, political, and economic reform apart from the integrity of God. Such efforts only serve to intensify problems and result in evil that is characterized by its total denunciation of God's grace. The only way to solve problems in life is through the application of Bible doctrine within the framework of God's plan for mankind; all other efforts are destined for failure. Christ Himself constantly



attacked human good and evil. (Matthew 7:21–23, 23:1–36; 1 Corinthians 3:11–15 compared with Revelation 20:11–15)

### 35) Old Sin Nature

The old sin nature is the source of all personal sin and the production of human good and evil. The old sin nature genetically resides in the cell structure of the human body (Romans 6:6; 7:14–23) and originated in Adam at his fall in the garden of Eden. As a result, the sinful nature is genetically transmitted through procreation to all mankind. Therefore, man is physically alive at birth but spiritually dead (Romans 3:23; 5:12). Personal sin is a manifestation of the sin nature (1 John 1:8–10) and consists of both known and unknown sins.

### 36) Confession

As royal priests, believers possess the unique prerogative of identifying their personal sins to God in prayer by simply naming their sins to God, “He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to purify us from all wrongdoing” (1 John 1:9). The word for confess in this verse is *homologeō*, a legal term which means, “to state a fact in a court of law.” Therefore, recovery from sin simply requires citing the sin to God in prayer. We are not required to name our sins to any religious official, fellow believer, or the congregation at large—only to God. We are not required to: pay penance; seek restitution; make a conciliatory offering; feel guilt, shame, or sorrow; or any other thought or action that is designed to placate or appease God. Confession alone to God alone cleanses the believer of his sins, re-establishes his fellowship with Him, and reinstates the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit. (Psalm 51:4a; Jeremiah 3:13; Romans 6:13; 12:1; 1 Corinthians 11:31–32; Ephesians 4:22; 5:13–14; Hebrews 12:1,12–13; and James 1:21)

### **37) Filling of the Holy Spirit**

The filling of the Holy Spirit places the believer into the absolute status of spirituality. In this environment the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to comprehend the supernatural content of the Bible resulting in spiritual growth. The omnipotence of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Word of God enable the believer to use this knowledge to perform acts of divine good. Thus, the filling of the Holy Spirit becomes the link between salvation and maturity and the execution of the Christian way of life.

(Ephesians 3:16; 5:18; 1 Corinthians 2:9–16)

### **38) Grace**

Grace is the title of God's plan, will, and purpose for the believer, and describes all that God is free to do for the believer based on the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Grace, to be grace, must never include human works. Grace is unmerited favor that functions in harmony with the essence of God. The source of grace must always be from God, never man. We are saved through grace (Ephesians 2:8–9), we are provided all our necessities through grace (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19), and our spiritual growth is by means of grace. (2 Peter 3:18)

### **39) Christian Way of Life**

Scripture commands believers to execute the Christian way of life. Although phrased differently, these commands have the same objective: Romans 6:4 speaks of the privilege of "walking in newness of life;" Galatians 5:16 commands us to "walk in the Holy Spirit;" Ephesians 5:2 mandates us to "walk in love;" Ephesians 5:8 orders us to "walk as children of light;" Colossians 2:6 is a directive to "walk in Christ;" and 2 John 6 exhorts us to "walk in obedience to His commandments." The believer belongs to a spiritual family founded by Jesus Christ and our standards of conduct for the Christian way of life find their precedence in those established by Him during the Incarnation:

- 1) Filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
- 2) Utilization of the basic problem-solving devices of Scripture (1 John 1:9; Hebrews 4:1–3).
- 3) Enforced and genuine humility so that the believer may be teachable, unhindered by arrogance and over-emphasis on self (Romans 12:3).
- 4) Habitual study of the Scriptures so that the believer might cleanse his soul of human viewpoint and replace it with divine viewpoint (Acts 17:11; Romans 12:2; 2 Timothy 2:15).
- 5) Reliance upon the motivational virtue of personal love for God and development of spiritual self-esteem (2 Corinthians 3:4–5; 1 John 5:3).
- 6) From the motivation of personal love for God, the development of the functional virtue of unconditional love for all mankind—the ability to accept all people as they are (John 15:17; Galatians 5:14; Luke 6:27).
- 7) Development of the mental attitude necessary to face the trials and problems of life with poise, grace, and stability. These tests are allowed by God and designed to accelerate the spiritual growth of the believer through the application of biblical problem-solving devices (1 Peter 1:6–7).
- 8) Attainment of spiritual maturity and sharing the happiness of God (John 15:9–11; James 1:12).

#### **40) Infralapsarianism**

The word “lapse” in English is derived from the Latin *lapsus* and means “to fall.” Theologically, this word refers to the fall of Adam from his initial perfection into total depravity due to sin. Lapsarians, then, are those who believe that Adam is a fallen being and, consequently, all of mankind. However, a

theological debate occurred as to the logical order of God's elective decrees: specifically, how did God resolve the sin problem of His fallen creation by His election of those who will have eternal life and those who will not?

Infralapsarianism means "under the lapse" whereby the prefix "infra" means "under" or "below." Since the sovereignty of God must co-exist with the free will of man, the logical way of listing the elective decrees places the decree to elect after, under, or below the decree to permit the fall of Adam:

1. *The decree to create mankind.*  
Principle: Man cannot be elected if he does not exist. For God to elect anyone, they must first of all be created.
2. *The decree to permit the fall of Man.*  
Principle: Condemnation must precede salvation. If man is in need of salvation then he is obviously in a fallen condition.
3. *The decree to provide salvation for all mankind.*  
Principle: The doctrine of unlimited atonement whereby Christ died as a substitute for all mankind, not just a predetermined few.
4. *The decree to elect those who believe in Jesus Christ and leave in just condemnation all who do not believe.*  
Principle: God provides all men free will to accept or reject His grace offer of salvation through faith alone in Christ alone.
5. *The decree to apply salvation to those who believe in Christ.*  
Principle: Each individual must first choose God's plan of salvation, after which God decrees to save that person's soul and impute eternal life to his human spirit.

*Note:* God decreed that those who believe in Christ from their own free will would be the elect. To know a person is going

to believe in Christ and decreeing it so is different from decreeing who will believe in Christ.

Acts 16:30–31 presents the infralapsarian sequence of the elective decrees:

After he [the Philippian jailer] brought them [Paul and Silas] out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They [Paul and Silas] replied, “[You] believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”  
(Acts 16:30–31a)

In Acts 16:31 the subject “You” is understood and refers specifically to the Philippian jailer but generally to all who ask the question, “What must I do to be saved?” Since one must exist in order to ask the question and to hear the response, then the “decree to create mankind” must come first. Elective decree Number 1: *the decree to create mankind*.

It is obvious that the Philippian jailer is not saved and therefore, must be fallen. Elective decree Number 2: *to permit the fall of man*.

That Paul and Silas have an answer to the question indicates that a way of salvation has been provided for everyone, Jew and Gentile alike. Elective decree Number 3: *to provide salvation to all mankind*.

The requirement is a simple volitional decision to “believe in the Lord Jesus.” The verb “believe” is in the imperative mood which is a challenge to human free will. The jailer is free to accept or reject Jesus as Savior. This illustrates elective decree Number 4: *to elect those who believe in Jesus Christ and to leave in just condemnation all who do not believe*.

Finally, it is clear that those who do believe will be saved. This is elective decree Number 5: *to apply salvation to those who believe in Christ*.

Thus, the infralapsarian order of the elective decrees clearly reveals that salvation is available to everyone and may be appropriated by means of faith alone in Christ alone.

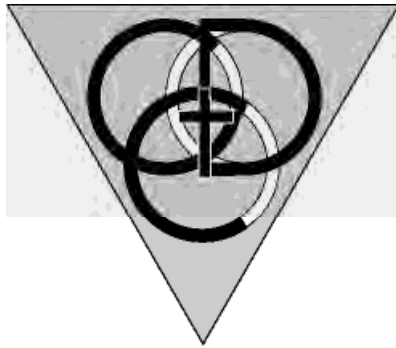
## Epilogue

May this brief presentation of the theology of Grace Doctrine Church serve as an inspiration to pursue a comprehensive understanding of Jesus Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3). We trust these forty proclamations of our beliefs will at least engender recognition of the unlimited depth of biblical revelation. May a few be challenged to place knowledge of the Word of God as the top priority in their lives. Why? Because there is no problem in life that doctrine cannot solve: *vincit omnia veritas* (doctrine conquers all). Finally, and most importantly, may these lessons serve to define, illuminate, and magnify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“This is the way God loved the world: He gave His uniquely-born Son, for the purpose that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but, as a result, have eternal life.” (John 3:16) (Expanded translation)

## Forty Proclamations

# The Constitution *of* Grace Doctrine Church





# THE CONSTITUTION OF GRACE DOCTRINE CHURCH

(Revised 02/15/2007)

## ARTICLE I

NAME. The name of this church shall be Grace Doctrine Church, a Missouri corporation, having its principal place of worship at 1821 South River Road, City of St. Charles, County of St. Charles, State of Missouri, 63303-4124, hereinafter referred to as "this church."

## ARTICLE II

PURPOSE. The purpose of this church is to present isagogical, categorical, and exegetical Bible teaching, standing unequivocally for the fundamentals of the faith as contained in the Holy Scriptures; and through the teaching of the Word in this church, the sending out of missionaries, and the ordaining of pastor-teachers, present the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ both at home and abroad.

The thrust of this church is to communicate Bible doctrine to believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, for the purpose of attainment of spiritual maturity.

This purpose and thrust is accomplished through the consistent teaching of the Word of God.

## ARTICLE III

### DOCTRINE AND TENETS

- A. Statement of Doctrine - The following basic doctrines contained in the Holy Scriptures are adopted:

1. The Holy Scriptures  
We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God, authoritative, inerrant, and God breathed. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12, 13)
2. The Godhead  
We believe in one triune God existing in three Persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—eternal in being, identical in nature, equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14)
3. The Total Depravity of Man  
We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God but that through Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, became alienated from God, and is totally unable to personally rectify his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:22, 23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:12)
4. The Person and Work of Christ  
We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man; that He accomplished our redemption through His spiritual death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice; that our redemption is made sure to us by His literal physical resurrection from the dead (John 1:1, 2, 14; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24, 25; 4:25; 1 Peter 1:3–5); that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven, exalted at the right hand of God, where, as the High Priest for His people, He fulfills the ministries of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1, 2)

5. The Personality and Work of the Holy Spirit  
We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, indwells all believers in the present age, baptizes them into the body of Christ, seals them unto the day of redemption, and that it is the duty of every believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit.  
(Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12–14; Ephesians 1:13, 14; 5:18)
6. Salvation  
We believe that salvation in every dispensation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose efficacious death on the cross provided man's reconciliation to God. (Ephesians 1:7; 2:8–10; John 1:12)
7. The Eternal Security of Believers  
We believe that all believers are kept secure forever. (Romans 8:1, 38, 39; John 10:27–30; 1 Corinthians 1:4–8)
8. The Church  
We believe that the church, which is now the body and shall be the bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this age irrespective of their affiliation with Christian organizations. (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:25–27; 1 Corinthians 12:12–14)
9. The Personality of Satan  
We believe in the personality of Satan who is the open and declared enemy of God and man.  
(Job 1:6, 7; Matthew 4:2–11; Isaiah 14:12–17)
10. The Blessed Hope  
We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the coming of the Lord

Jesus in the air to receive to Himself the dead in Christ and believers who are alive at His coming, otherwise known as the Rapture, translation, or exit resurrection of the Church.

(1 Corinthians 15:51–57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Titus 2:11–14)

11. The Tribulation

We believe that the Rapture of the church will be followed by the fulfillment of Daniel's seventieth week, the latter half of which is the time of Jacob's trouble, the great Tribulation.

(Daniel 9:27; Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:15–21; Revelation 6–19)

12. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that the great Tribulation will be climaxed by the (premillennial) return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth to set up His kingdom.

(Zechariah 14:4–11; Matthew 4:15–25; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–10; Revelation 20:6)

13. The Eternal State

We believe that the soul and human spirit of those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming when soul, human spirit, and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory; but the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of the Millennium, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. (Luke 16:19–26; 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8;

Philippians 1:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–9; Jude 6, 7;  
Revelation 20:11–15)

14. The Responsibility of Believers

To “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” to the end that his life is consistent with the Lord’s plan, thus bringing both blessing to the believer and honor to the Lord. (2 Peter 3:18)

15. Church Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Lord’s Supper to be observed until His return. (Matthew 28:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26)

16. Sovereignty

We believe that God, existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is sovereign and exercises supreme and absolute rule over all creation as a part of and consistent with the essence and attributes of Deity. (1 Chronicles 29:11,12; Daniel 4:35; Psalms 24:1; Ephesians 1:11; 1 Timothy 6:15).

17. Spirituality

We believe that spirituality is an absolute condition in the life of a believer in this dispensation wherein he is filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit. We believe that spirituality is distinct from maturity, that a believer becomes carnal through any act of mental, verbal, or overt sin, and that spirituality is restored solely by personal confession of sins to God the Father. (John 15:7, 8; 2 Corinthians 5:6; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 6:11–13; 1 John 1:5, 9; 2:2; 1 Corinthians 11:30, 31)

18. Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God the Holy Spirit in grace and apart from human merit sovereignly bestows

spiritual gifts to believers in this dispensation. Some of the permanent spiritual gifts that exist today are pastor-teacher, evangelist, missionary and administrator. We further believe that the temporary spiritual gifts ceased with the completion of the canon of Scripture, and these were apostleship, prophecy, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, healing, and working of miracles. (1 Corinthians 12, 13; Ephesians 4:7–12; Romans 12:4–8). Any member claiming to practice these temporary gifts shall be subject to immediate dismissal.

#### B. Tenets

1. The church shall not at any time become a member, sanction, or support any denomination, association of churches, or religious organization of any kind without approval of the pastor and Board of Deacons.
2. This church shall not solicit anyone to become a member. Those who desire to affiliate with this church may do so by complying with the provisions of Article V.
3. This church shall not knowingly accept gifts from unbelievers nor make individual solicitation of funds or pledges among believers.

### ARTICLE IV

#### CHURCH GOVERNMENT

The leadership of this church is vested in the pastor, whose absolute authority is derived from the Scripture (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

The administration of the affairs of this church under the leadership of the pastor is vested in the church officers and

the Board of Deacons.

#### A. Church Officers

The church officers shall include the chairman, the treasurer, and the secretary. A vice-chairman may be included at the discretion of the pastor. A member's qualifications to serve in the capacity of church officer shall be discerned and evaluated by the pastor.

1. Chairman

The chairman shall preside at all business meetings of the members and of the Board of Deacons, shall have general supervision of the administrative affairs of this church as provided in this constitution and /or as directed by the pastor, shall sign all instruments of the church where applicable, shall be an ex officio member of all committees, and shall perform all other duties incident to this office.

2. Vice Chairman

The vice-chairman shall assist the chairman as directed and perform the functions of the chairman during his absence.

3. Treasurer

The treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt, deposit, and disbursement of all funds and securities as authorized by the pastor and deacons; shall keep books of account, shall render a current financial statement at the annual meeting of the members and shall make such other reports which at the discretion of the treasurer are essential to proper financial reporting. The treasurer shall be responsible for the investment of surplus funds subject to the approval of the Board of Deacons. Approval is defined as a simple majority of the Board of Deacons present. The church

accounting personnel shall be under the sole supervision of the treasurer.

4. Secretary

The secretary shall keep the minutes of the business meetings of the members and the deacons, shall receive and issue notice of all business meetings of the members and the deacons, shall be custodian of the corporate seal and records, shall keep a current roster of the members with addresses, shall maintain a record of attendance at deacons' meetings, shall sign instruments where required by law, and shall prepare the agenda of all business meetings of the members and deacons.

B. Deacons

The Board of Deacons shall consist of the pastor and deacons.

1. Appointment Procedure

The pastor shall prepare a list of appointees and submit them to the board for approval. Following approval, these names shall be submitted for ratification to the membership at the annual business meeting of members. An appointed Board of Deacons shall be ratified upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting.

2. Term of Office

Each deacon shall be appointed for a term determined by the pastor and approved by the Board of Deacons.

3. Qualifications

- a. A member who is a supported missionary, an employee, or spouse of an employee of Grace Doctrine Church shall not serve as a deacon.
- b. An appointee for deacon must have been a



member of Grace Doctrine Church for two years before being eligible to serve as deacon, unless this requirement is waived by the pastor in specific instances and approved by the Board of Deacons.

4. Vacancy

A vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the pastor and approved by the Board of Deacons. A deacon so appointed shall serve the unexpired term of his predecessor.

5. Regular Meetings

A regular meeting of the deacons shall be held not later than thirty (30) days after the annual meeting of the members. Other regular meetings shall be held at such times and places as the deacons may determine, but at least once a quarter.

6. Special Meetings

A special meeting of the deacons may be called at any time at the request of the pastor, the chairman, or two (2) deacons.

7. Quorum

A quorum shall be one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the total number of deacons and officers. The acts of the majority of the deacons present shall be the act of the deacons unless otherwise specifically required by this constitution.

8. Place and Notice of Meetings

All meetings of the deacons shall be held at the principal place of worship of the church unless otherwise specified in the notice of same. Notice of meetings shall be given in writing or by phone at least three (3) days prior to such meeting, except in the case of special call meetings which can be called by the pastor or chairman at any

time. The purpose of the meeting need not be stated in such notice.

9. Duties of Deacons

Under the authority of the pastor, the deacons shall administer the affairs of this church that are not delegated or reserved to the pastor or others. The specific responsibilities of the deacons shall include:

- a. To make provision for the supply of the pulpit in the event of a vacancy in the office of pastor, or take full charge of all services for which the pulpit is not supplied during that vacancy.
- b. To cooperate with the pastor in shepherding the membership of this church; to reconcile so far as possible all differences; to keep order in the assemblies of the members; to act for the members in the reception and dismissal of members; and to supervise and administer the various activities of Grace Doctrine Church as indicated hereinafter by the standing and special committees.
- c. To assist the treasurer in the supervision and administration of all funds; to hire and discharge personnel, except where reserved to the pastor or specific officer; to determine salaries and missionary allowances; to hold title to all property in trust for the use and benefit of the members, but shall not acquire or dispose of real property which is intended for, or used as, a church facility, or contract for any loans on behalf of this church except upon prior specific written instruction and authority by the members at a duly called business meeting; to take all necessary measures for the protection, management, and upkeep of all

property; to determine the use of the facilities of this church; to render a written report to the members at the annual meeting of the members, outlining therein the activities of the deacons for the past year and recommendations, if any, for the members; and to execute any special instructions of the members adopted in a resolution at a duly called meeting of the members.

- d. To interpret this constitution.

### C. Committees

The committees may include but are not limited to the following:

1. The standing committees of this church shall be:
  - a. Finance Committee, chaired by the treasurer.
  - b. Church Office Committee, chaired by an appointee of the chairman and approved by the pastor.
  - c. Prep School Committee, chaired by an appointee of the chairman and approved by the pastor.
  - d. Membership Committee, chaired by an appointee of the chairman and approved by the pastor.
  - e. Missionary Committee, chaired by an appointee of the chairman and approved by the pastor.
  - f. Nursery Committee, chaired by an appointee of the chairman, and approved by the pastor.
  - g. Property Committee, chaired by an appointee of the chairman and approved by the pastor.

- h. Ushers Committee, chaired by an appointee of the chairman and approved by the pastor.
- 2. Each standing committee shall be chaired by a deacon and shall have as members those deacons and/or members of the congregation selected by its chairman and approved by the pastor.
- 3. The specific duties of the standing committees are as follows:
  - a. Finance Committee shall be responsible, under the supervision of the treasurer, for the supervision and administration of all ways and means of receiving, conserving, and disbursing funds, and maintenance of proper insurance.
  - b. Church Office Committee shall be responsible for the operation and management of the church office, including office secretarial personnel and equipment, maintenance of church records, and custody of membership rolls.
  - c. Membership Committee shall examine the qualifications of applicants for membership and recommend qualified applicants to the Board of Deacons for approval, keep the deacons apprised of members who are sick or in need of financial assistance, and in general assist the pastor as he may direct in matters affecting the membership.
  - d. Missionary Committee shall be responsible for the administration of all missionary activities according to the policy approved by the deacons and pastor.
  - e. Nursery Committee shall be responsible for the administration and operation of the nursery facilities.

- f. Prep School Committee shall be responsible for the approval of curriculum used in the Prep School operation, enlist and train faculty and administer the day-to-day functions of Prep School.
  - g. Property Committee shall be responsible for the operation, use, maintenance, and repair of all property not specifically delegated to others, including all buildings, grounds, parking areas, mechanical equipment, and all equipment, furniture and fixtures appurtenant to the church property. The cleaning and maintenance personnel shall be under the supervision of this committee.
  - h. Ushers Committee shall be responsible for the seating of the congregation at all public worship services, provision for tellers at business meetings of the members, and preparation and distribution of the elements of the Lord's Supper.
4. Special Committees

Special committees, such as the Ordination Committee, may be appointed by the pastor or the chairman for the execution of special activities not within the scope of the standing committee.

## ARTICLE V

### MEMBERSHIP

- A. A person shall qualify for membership who:
- 1. Believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior;
  - 2. Acknowledges and accepts the authority of the pastor as his or her right pastor-teacher.

3. Subscribes to the doctrines and tenants of this church as cited in Article III of this constitution and the doctrinal statement of this church published under the title *Forty Proclamations: The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church*.

#### B. Associate Member

An Associate Member shall be an individual who is associated with the church but not in the local congregation. Associate Members are not considered in determining a quorum at congregational meetings and thus may not vote in congregational elections.

#### C. Receiving Members

Any person desiring to become a member of this church who makes such request of the pastor or deacons and who meets the qualifications of this article shall upon approval of the deacons be received as a member into the fellowship of the church.

#### D. Voting Member

The voting members shall be limited to those members twenty (20) years old or older.

#### E. Membership Roll

1. Periodic review of the membership roll with a view toward changing the status of individual members from “active” to “inactive” is the prerogative of the pastor. The pastor shall recommend such status changes to the Board of Deacons for their approval. Status may be changed from “inactive” to “active” by the same process.
2. A member who is on the inactive membership list shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.
3. A member may be removed and reinstated to the membership roll by action of the Board of Deacons.

## ARTICLE VI

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Public worship services shall be held when and as often as the pastor determines or, in the event a vacancy in the office of pastor exists, as the deacons determine. The pastor shall be the final authority in the regulation of all aspects of these services.

## ARTICLE VII

### BUSINESS MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

#### A. Place

All business meetings of the members shall be held at the principal place of worship of this church, unless otherwise specified in the notice.

#### B. Notice

The date, time, place, and agenda of all meetings will be published in the church bulletin and announced from the pulpit at least fourteen (14) days prior to such meeting(s).

#### C. Agenda

Items of business for consideration in business meetings will be restricted to the agenda stipulated in the notice of meeting. Issues and questions from the floor that depart from the agenda will not be considered or voted upon.

#### D. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the members within six (6) weeks of the end of the fiscal year, the exact date of same to be determined by the deacons; and the meeting shall be called by the secretary by notice as hereinbefore stipulated.

#### E. Special Business Meetings

The secretary upon notice from the pastor or the deacons shall call a special business meeting of the members. The

date, time, and purpose of said meeting will be announced in the church bulletin. A quorum for special business meetings shall be defined as fifty-one percent (51%) of the active voting members present for said meeting.

**F. Quorum and Conduct of Business**

1. A quorum for the transaction of regular business shall be thirty-three percent (33%) of the voting members. The majority vote of such members present and voting shall prevail unless the vote of a greater number is required by this constitution.
2. In all business meetings the chairman of the deacons shall preside, and in his absence the vice chairman. If both are absent the deacons shall appoint a chairman.
3. In the transaction of business the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall be used in all cases not covered by this constitution.

**G. Voting**

The chairman of the meeting shall determine the method of voting, except the following shall be by secret ballot: the ratification of appointed deacons; purchase, sale, or transfer of real property; the calling of a pastor.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**PASTOR**

**A. Call**

1. In the event of a vacancy in the office of pastor, the chairman of the Board of Deacons shall appoint a Pulpit Committee, subject to approval of the board. This committee shall be responsible for locating acceptable candidates and presenting them to the board for consideration.



2. A candidate for pastor shall be considered only after he has subscribed in writing to the doctrinal statement and constitution of this church. He shall be recommended to the members in a duly called business meeting by at least a two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) affirmative vote of the Board of Deacons.

B. Terminating a Pastor's Services

The pastor may be recommended for dismissal by an affirmative vote of at least two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the total number of deacons. Voting shall be in a duly called meeting of the deacons. At least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting, the pastor under consideration shall be notified in writing of the reason(s) for the recommended dismissal, and at his option may be represented by two members, introduce evidence, present, and cross-examine witnesses. If the vote is for dismissal, recommendation shall be made by the deacons to the members, and the services of the pastor may then be terminated by at least a two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the members present in a duly called special meeting by a roll-call vote.

## ARTICLE IX

### MISSIONARIES

A. Support

Support of duly qualified missionaries or mission entities may be initiated by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the deacons present in a duly called meeting of the deacons. Such support may be terminated by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the deacons present in a duly called meeting of the deacons.

B. Doctrinal Position

A missionary or missionary entity shall subscribe to and abide by the doctrinal statement of this church before any support shall be approved or continued.

## ARTICLE X

### LICENSING AND ORDINATION

#### A. License

A license to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be issued in the name of this church to any man who in the judgment of the pastor and deacons is called of God to the work of the ministry, by an affirmative vote of two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the total number of the deacons. The issuance of such a license shall not bind this church to a future ordination of the licensee.

#### B. Ordination

A commission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be granted in the name of this church to any man by an affirmative vote of two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the examining council administered by the Ordination Committee. The examining council will be composed of the pastor and deacons. The examining council shall thoroughly examine all such applicants as to personal salvation, spiritual gifts, doctrine, ministry, education, and character.

#### C. Revocation

A license or ordination granted by this church may be revoked upon recommendation by the Ordination Committee and an affirmative vote of two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the total number of the deacons.

## ARTICLE XI

### FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this church shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December each year.

## ARTICLE XII

### SEAL

The deacons shall provide a corporate seal, which shall be in

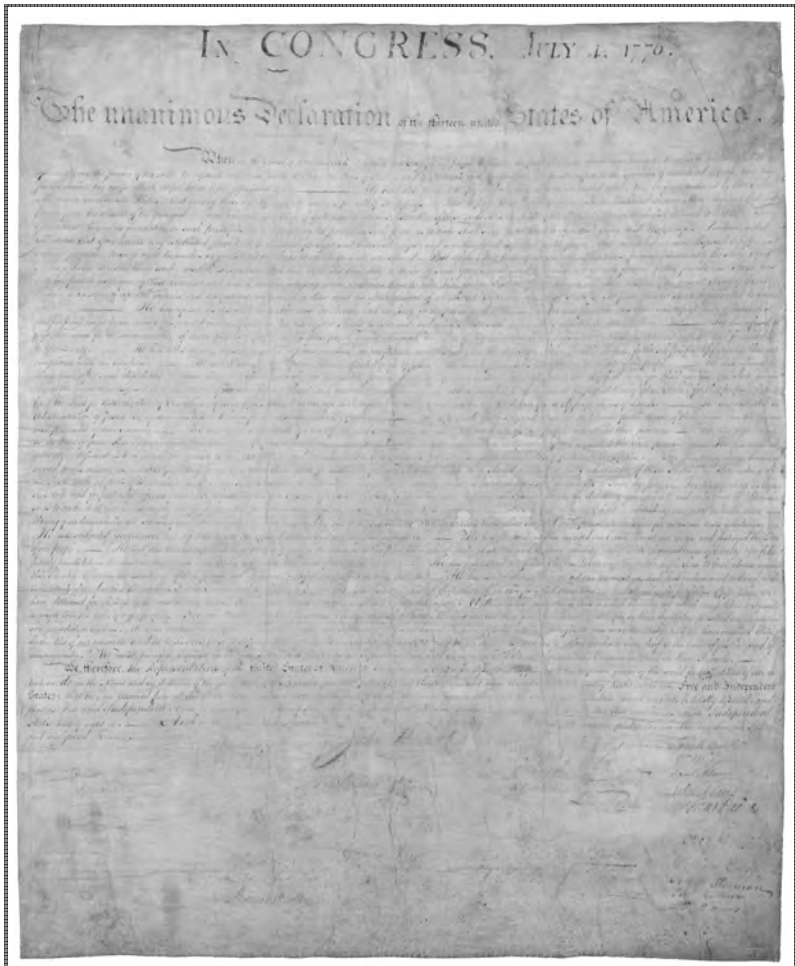
the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of this church.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended by a vote of two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the members present at a duly called special business meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been approved by the Board of Deacons.

# The Declaration of Independence





*Note: The text for the U.S. Declaration of Independence follows.  
The original spelling and capitalization have been retained.*

## **The Declaration of Independence**

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.  
A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
IN GENERAL CONGRESS, ASSEMBLED.

WHEN, in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive to these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations,

pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

HE has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

HE has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

HE has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

HE has called together Legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

HE has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

HE has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

HE has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for

Naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

HE has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

HE has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

HE has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

HE has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies without the consent of our Legislatures.

HE has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to Civil Power.

HE has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their acts of pretended Legislation:

FOR quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us:

FOR protecting them, by mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

FOR cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World:

FOR imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

FOR depriving us in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury:

FOR transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offenses:

FOR abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies:

FOR taking away our Charters, abolishing our most



valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

FOR suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

HE has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

HE has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

HE is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

HE has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

HE has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

IN every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

NOR have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common

Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in war, in Peace, Friends.

WE, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,

New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton

Massachusetts Bay: John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island: Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery

Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott

New York: William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris

New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark

Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross

Delaware: Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean

Maryland: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton

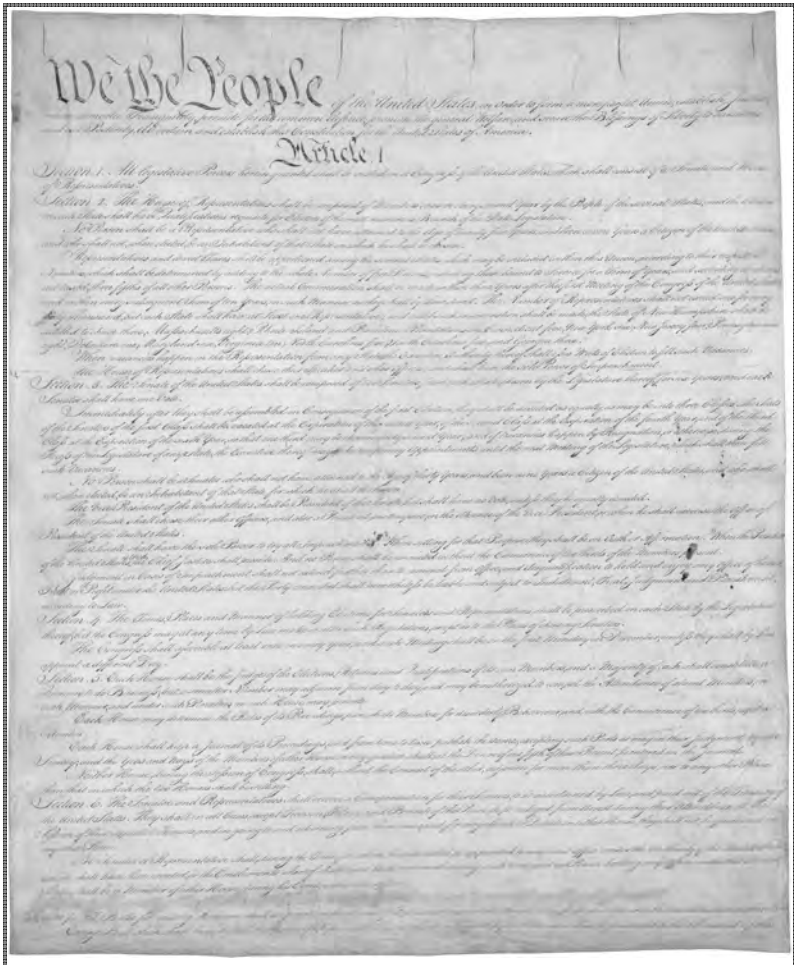
Virginia: George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton

North Carolina: William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn

South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton

Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton

# The Constitution of the United States of America





*Note: The text for the Constitution of the United States follows.  
The original spelling and capitalization have been retained.*

## **The Constitution of the United States of America**

### **Preamble**

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

### **Article. I.**

**Section. 1.** All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

**Section. 2.** The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free

Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

**Section. 3.** The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until

the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

**Section. 4.** The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.



**Section. 5.** Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

**Section. 6.** The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been encreased during such time; and no Person holding any

Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

**Section. 7.** All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

**Section. 8.** The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation

of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—  
And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

**Section. 9.** The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper

to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

**Section. 10.** No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

## **Article. II.**

**Section. 1.** The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of

the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; a quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such

Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be encreased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

**Section. 2.** The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.



The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

**Section. 3.** He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

**Section. 4.** The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

### **Article. III.**

**Section. 1.** The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

**Section. 2.** The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies

between two or more States;—between a State and Citizens of another State;—between Citizens of different States;—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

**Section. 3.** Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

## **Article. IV.**

**Section. 1.** Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

**Section. 2.** The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

**Section. 3.** New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

**Section. 4.** The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

## **Article. V.**

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this

Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

### **Article. VI.**

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

**Article. VII.**

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

*done* in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth In Witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

Go. Washington—  
Presidt. and deputy from Virginia

**New Hampshire**

John Langdon  
Nicholas Gilman

**Massachusetts**

Nathaniel Gorman  
Rufus King

**New Jersey**

Wil: Livingston  
David Brearley  
Wm Paterson  
Jona: Dayton

**Pennsylvania**

B Franklin  
Robt. Morris  
Thos. FitzSimons  
James Wilson  
Thomas Mifflin  
Geo. Clymer  
Jared Ingersoll  
Gouv Morris

**Connecticut**

Wm Saml Johnson  
Roger Sherman

**New York**

Alexander Hamilton

**Maryland**

James McHenry  
Danl Carroll  
Dan: of St Thos Jenifer

**Virginia**

John Blair  
James Madison Jr.

**North Carolina**

Wm Blount  
Hu Williamson  
Richd Dobbs Spaight

**Delaware**

Geo: Read

John Dickinson

Jaco: Broom

Gunning Bedford jun

Richard Bassett

**South Carolina**

J. Rutledge

Charles Pinckney

Charles Cotesworth Pinkney

Pierce Butler

**Georgia**

William Few

Abr Baldwin

**Attest:**

William Jackson, Secretary

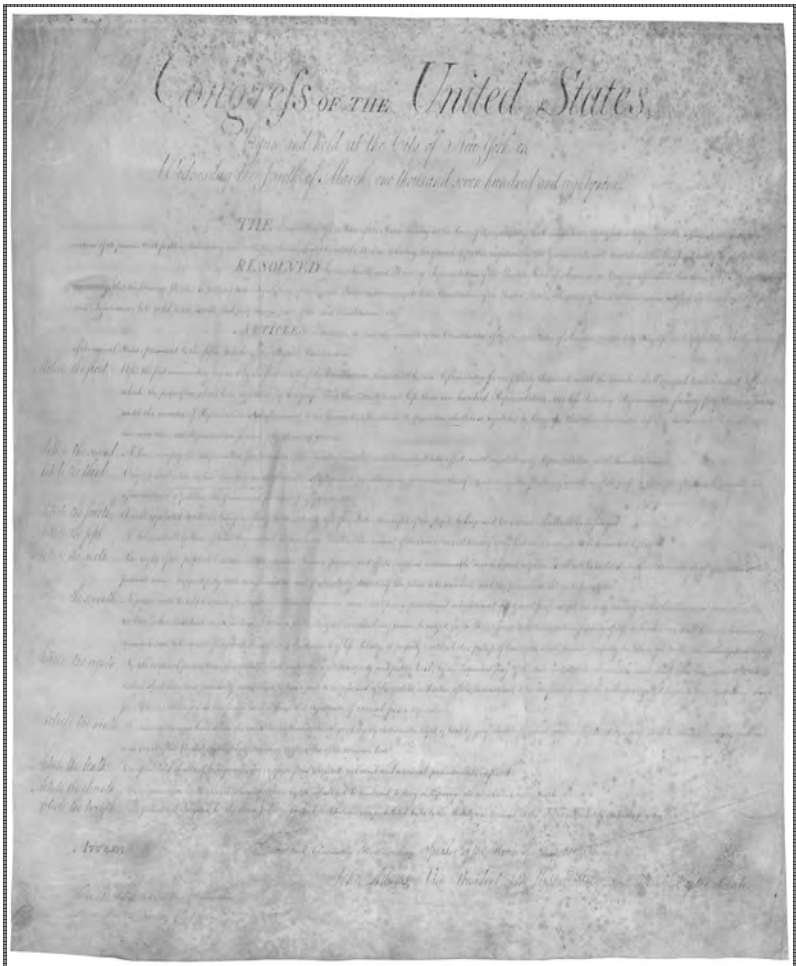
**Notes:**

*The Constitution was adopted by a convention of the States on September 17, 1787, and was subsequently ratified by the several States, on the following dates: Delaware, December 7, 1787; Pennsylvania, December 12, 1787; New Jersey, December 18, 1787; Georgia, January 2, 1788; Connecticut, January 9, 1788; Massachusetts, February 6, 1788; Maryland, April 28, 1788; South Carolina, May 23, 1788; New Hampshire, June 21, 1788. Ratification was completed on June 21, 1788.*

*The Constitution was subsequently ratified by Virginia, June 25, 1788; New York, July 26, 1788; North Carolina, November 21, 1789; Rhode Island, May 29, 1790; and Vermont, January 10, 1791.*



# The Amendments







## **The Amendments**

The following text is a transcription of the twenty-seven amendments to the Constitution. The first ten amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the **Bill of Rights**.

### **Amendment I**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### **Amendment II**

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

### **Amendment III**

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

### **Amendment IV**

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

### **Amendment V**

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

### **Amendment VI**

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

### **Amendment VII**

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

### **Amendment VIII**

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

## **Amendment IX**

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

## **Amendment X**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

## **Amendment XI**

*(Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795. Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11.)*

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

## **Amendment XII**

*(Passed by Congress December 9, 1803., Ratified June 15, 1804. A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment.)*

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States,

directed to the President of the Senate;—the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted;—The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. --]\* The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

*\*Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.*

### **Amendment XIII**

*(Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865. A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.)*

## **Section 1.**

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

## **Section 2.**

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## **Amendment XIV**

*(Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868. Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.)*

## **Section 1.**

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

## **Section 2.**

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age\* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for par-

ticipation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

### **Section 3.**

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

### **Section 4.**

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

### **Section 5.**

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

*\*Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.*

### **Amendment XV**

*(Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.)*

#### **Section 1.**

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude—

#### **Section 2.**

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

### **Amendment XVI**

*(Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913. Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.)*

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

### **Amendment XVII**

*(Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913. Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.)*

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, That the legislature of any State may empower the execu-



tive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

### **Amendment XVIII**

*(Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.)*

#### **Section 1.**

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

#### **Section 2.**

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

#### **Section 3.**

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

### **Amendment XIX**

*(Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.)*

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any

State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## **Amendment XX**

*(Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933. Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.)*

### **Section 1.**

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

### **Section 2.**

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

### **Section 3.**

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President elect shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act

accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

#### **Section 4.**

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

#### **Section 5.**

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

#### **Section 6.**

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

### **Amendment XXI**

*(Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.)*

#### **Section 1.**

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

#### **Section 2.**

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

### **Section 3.**

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

### **Amendment XXII**

*(Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.)*

### **Section 1.**

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

### **Section 2.**

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

## **Amendment XXIII**

*(Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.)*

### **Section 1.**

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

### **Section 2.**

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## **Amendment XXIV**

*(Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.)*

### **Section 1.**

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

### **Section 2.**

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article

by appropriate legislation.

## **Amendment XXV**

*(Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967. Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.)*

### **Section 1.**

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

### **Section 2.**

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

### **Section 3.**

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

### **Section 4.**

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

### **Amendment XXVI**

*(Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.)*

Note: Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

#### **Section 1.**

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

#### **Section 2.**

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

## **Amendment XXVII**

*(Originally proposed September 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.)*

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of representatives shall have intervened.



## **NOTES**

For your convenience, the following pages have been provided for your use in taking notes.

## **THE SHIELD OF GRACE DOCTRINE CHURCH**

To learn more about the Shield of Grace Doctrine Church, please see Page 99. A full-color replication of the Shield is located on the inside back cover.

## NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

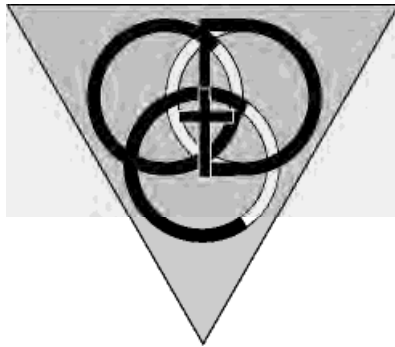


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The Shield  
*of*  
Grace Doctrine  
Church





## The Shield of Grace Doctrine Church

The charges to the shield consist of three interlocking circles shaded in blue to reveal the church's initials, G-D-C; the cross of the G intersecting with the staff of the D to form a Latin cross (*crus immissa*) within the mutual area where the circles interlock. The charges are set into a blue-and-white screened triangular pile (inverted triangle), on a field of white.

The three interlocking circles symbolize the eternal essence of the three members of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—Three in One; One in Three.

The shaded areas of each circle form the initials of Grace Doctrine Church. The upper left circle represents God the Father since Grace is the policy of His perfect plan.

The upper right circle is symbolic of God the Holy Spirit since Doctrine as taught by Him is how man learns the Father's plan.

The lower circle is emblematic of God the Son since He is the Head of the Church which pursues the plan.

The initials intertwine within the mutual area where the circles interlock to form the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the central event of human history and the primary focus of the plan of God.

The pile is another symbol of the Trinity. The upper points represent God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. The inverted apex refers to God the Son and demonstrates the incarnation of our Lord. The deity of Christ took on true humanity at the virgin birth in order to accomplish our so



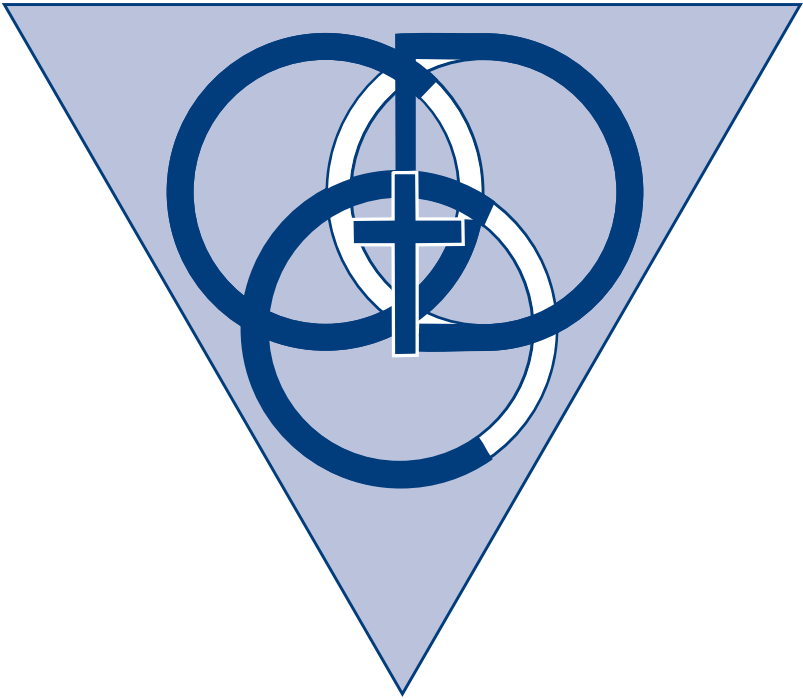
great salvation on the cross. The official colors are blue and white. The Israelites regarded the color blue as the symbol of the revealed God and the Trinity's divine policy of grace. It is also symbolic of reward.

The blue charges are emblazoned on a field of white indicating that the plan of God is backed by the integrity of God.

Thus the achievement speaks of Grace Doctrine Church's theological orthodoxy: Monotheism is the matrix from which the doctrine of the Trinity is developed. We pursue the plan of God through the Father's policy of Grace, by means of Doctrine, within the assembly of the local Church of which Jesus Christ is the supreme authority.



*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,  
full of grace and doctrine.  
(John 1:14)*



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### ***Forty Proclamations: The Theology of Grace Doctrine Church***

was developed in 1989 as a conclusion to Joe Griffin's series on the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. They present succinct definitions of core principles that emerge from his use of the literal, grammatical, historical system of hermeneutics. For a more detailed treatment of these and other subjects, consult the electronic recordings, manuscripts, and publications available from Joe Griffin Media Ministries. In addition, *Forty Proclamations* contains several addenda, including the Constitution and Bylaws of Grace Doctrine Church.

The foundation of all cultures is a central belief system that unites disparate individuals into a harmonious commonwealth. Although the United States is not a Christian nation, it was founded primarily by Christians who incorporated laws of divine establishment into the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. For Christians, the most sacred right contained in the First Amendment is that of free exercise. Ancillary to it are those freedoms that enable a person to grow in grace so he can become a good soldier for Jesus Christ. Freedom of movement facilitates assembly. Freedom of assembly permits church attendance. Freedom of speech allows public exposition of Scripture. Freedom of the press insures the publication and distribution of the Bible and its teachings. Recognizing the importance of a free people having access to the foundational documents of the Republic, these State Papers are a part of this publication.

Finally, the shield of Grace Doctrine Church reflects a number of doctrines that are explained in the back of the book.



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