

Interested in Membership?



Read this packet very carefully.

Sign and return the final page if you would like to covenant with the other members of Grace, and one of our Elders will meet with you soon.

grace

CHURCH JARRELL

OUR MISSION:

**We exist to be a family of grace and truth,
who make much of God and make disciples of Jesus
as we gladly go to our neighbors and the nations with the gospel.**

- **We exist to be a family of grace and truth**

Followers of Jesus are graciously adopted and into God's family, and we long for God's family to grow! Family is messy, but as we rely on Jesus we will overflow with grace and truth. These are the rails on which we ride and all that we say and do should be characterized by both. Grace is the goodness of God that we need, yet don't deserve. We stand in awe under the waterfall of God's extraordinary grace and long to be a channel of His grace to others by being Christlike in compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and love. Relying on Jesus we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to treasure the whole of God's truth as expressed in His Word. Out of love for Him we want to learn God's truth, love it, and live it out.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17)

- **who make much of God**

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God with all that we are. By "making much of God" we mean magnifying Him by highlighting His character, His purposes, His work, and His ways. Our ultimate goal is not for people to meet a great pastor or discover a great church, but to know and love our great God.

"And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment." (Matthew 22:37-38)

- **and make disciples of Jesus**

This is the wonderful imperative of Jesus' Great Commission to all of us as His disciples. We do this by *going* with the gospel, *baptizing* believers, and *teaching* them to rely on Jesus so that they mature into loving and obedient disciples who make multiplying disciples.

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" — Matthew 28:18-20

- **as we go to our neighbors and the nations with the gospel**

Rather than wait for people to come to us, we will go to those across the street and across the globe with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the light of the world who calls us to be the light of the world so we rely on Jesus to shine His light through us as we intentionally seek out daily "SUNLIGHT interactions".

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" (John 8:12) "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Mt 5:14-16)

grace

CHURCH JARRELL

OUR VISION:

**As we fulfill our mission we will glorify God
and increasingly become a family of believers who...**

- fearlessly follow God's Son
- contagiously treasure God's Word
- genuinely channel God's love
- joyfully trust God's sovereignty
- faithfully share God's gospel



OUR LOGO

1. The name of our church is "grace" because it is God's grace that saves us and we long to be a channel of God's grace to one another.
2. The "g" at the beginning is made up of the letters "c" and "j". GCJ = Grace Church Jarrell.
3. The acorn in the "a" does three things:
 - A. It helps us make much of God because while many might count the number of acorns in an oak tree, only God can count the number of oak trees in an acorn.
 - B. Further, it is a powerful and beautiful picture of how disciples grow and multiply, much like acorns that grow into oak trees and then produce more acorns who grow into oak trees.
 - C. Finally, it is the symbol we use when we discuss "The Gospel in a Nutshell".



The **Gospel**
in a **Nutshell**

God is holy.
We are sinful,
separated by our sin.
Sent in love, Jesus died
to bear God's wrath
on our behalf and,
resurrected, gives us life
and is our joy as we repent
and place our
lifelong faith
in Him.

THE GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST

The word “gospel” means “good news”. It is the good news of the rescue mission of Jesus Christ. As such, it is a response to the bad news that we are in need of rescue. Every one of us is guilty of committing sin-crimes against our holy God—the God who made us and before whom each of us will stand one day. Because He is a just judge, we are fully deserving of His guilty verdict and the consequences: His righteous wrath and eternal death in hell. Amazingly, our God is merciful and loving and sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to willingly lay down His life in the place of us, God’s enemies. When God opens our eyes to our sin and reveals that we can never be good enough on our own, He draws us to faith in Jesus and we are saved from His wrath and adopted in God’s family!

Romans 3:9b-27 (Watch how Paul builds his case by quoting Old Testament truth)

9 ...For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” 13 “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” 14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

He is our Ruler. We revolted against Him. He sent His Son to Rescue us. Our response is repentance and faith. For more on the gospel, we highly recommend, “What Is The Gospel?” by Greg Gilbert.

The Three Primary Rhythms of Grace Church Jarrell

1. WORSHIP GATHERINGS

- **When:** Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
- **Where:** 305 Limestone Terrace (Suite D) in Jarrell, Texas.
- **Why:** To make much of God and to make disciples of Jesus by reading the Word, praying the Word, singing the Word, preaching the Word, and displaying the Word through baptism & the Lord's Supper.

2. FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

- **What:** 6-12 people meeting weekly in a home, applying God's Word to their lives.

Each group revolves around the application of God's Word as they discuss the most recent Grace Jarrell sermon. Participants are encouraged to be transparent in how they plan to live out what they are learning. Additionally, the group will pray for one another and their area of application and provide encouragement and accountability for taking action. There is flexibility from group to group as some might choose to enjoy a meal together, others might have a time of family worship together, some might include children in their group, while others might request that attendees secure their own childcare.

- **When & Where:**

We have multiple options with groups meeting both in Jarrell as well as in nearby towns and groups offered on different days at different times. We hope you can find at least one that works well for you.

3. DISCIPLESHIP GROVES

- **What:**

3-4 people gathering for strategic growth in the Scriptures and walking intentionally with each other and Jesus for six months, with the express goal of then breaking off to form new Groves, investing five months with them and so on, thereby multiplying disciples who make disciples. You will grow in Christ-honoring ways as you **mature** and then **multiply!**

- **When:**

Time alone with God in His Word and prayer each day and then two hours with your Grove twice a month. Each Grove will choose their particular day and time to meet. The Grove leader will touch base one-on-one with each person between Grove gatherings.

- **How:**

A person enters a Grove by invitation of someone forming a new Grove. Church members are encouraged to let Kyle know if you're genuinely interested in being in a Grove!

- **Why:** Because Jesus doesn't merely call us to *be* disciples, but to *make* disciples:

Matthew 28:18-20 — "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.





OUR SPONSORS

- We are a **Baptist Missionary Association (BMAT)** church.
(bmatexas.org)
- **Grace Church Salado** in Salado, Texas is our sending church.
(gracesalado.com)
- **Williamson Baptist Association** is a network with which we voluntarily associate.
(wbatesexas.org)
- **Crossroads Church** in Austin, Texas supports us.
(crossroadschurchaustin.com)
- **3C Cowboy Fellowship** in Salado, Texas supports us and is our WBA sponsor.
(3ccowboyleftship.com)
- **First Baptist Church** in Georgetown, Texas supports us.
(fbg.church)
- **First Baptist Church** in Livingston, Texas supports us.
(fbclivingston.org)
- **South Park Baptist Church** in Ft. Worth, Texas supports us.
(spbc.life)



OUR LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, our church may be accurately characterized by these three phrases: Elder-led, Deacon-served, Congregation-ruled.

- **Grace Church Jarrell is Elder-led.**

The Elders (also referred to in Scripture as pastors, bishops, and overseers) are men of God who are responsible for the shepherding and oversight of God's people. The Bible portrays churches as having a plurality of elders, though no particular number of elders is prescribed.

1 Peter 5:1-5

1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Titus 1:5-9

5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— 6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Our current elders are Kyle Cheatham and Rob Chambers.

- **Grace Church Jarrell is Deacon-served.**

(We are still in the process of appointing our first deacons, though around 80% of our members are currently actively serving. Wow!)

The word “deacon” means “servant” and so our Deacons are godly men who serve our people in various ways as decided by the Elders. Many see Acts 6:1-6 as describing an early form of the deacon position and says that the people were to choose “men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom [the elders] will appoint to this duty.” Additionally, Paul gives the following counsel regarding the kind of men for this role:

1 Timothy 3:8-13

8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. 9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. 11 Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. 13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

- **Grace Church Jarrell is Congregation-ruled.**

The letters of the New Testament were, for the most part, written to churches. In doing so, they were addressed not only to the leaders, but to all of the people of that particular church. Though guidance was given by the apostles and others sent by churches, there is a clear expectation that the people of each congregation will submit to their elders and be served by their deacons, as they each put into practice the Scripture exhortations written to them. One such example is the matter of church discipline as laid out in 1 Corinthians 5.

Being “congregation-ruled” means that while our Elders will guard the doctrine and guide the overall direction of the church, the members of the church will handle large-scale matters such as the following. In our case, these will be handled by a member vote requiring 75% agreement:

- Appointing new elders (including hiring and firing the lead pastor, who is an elder)
- Changes to our Statement of Faith and/or Covenant
- Purchasing of property
- Taking on of debt
- Adjustments to our Church Constitution
- Annual budget

Member Meetings are warm times of fellowship characterized by prayer, celebration, and reliance on the Holy Spirit as we seek to operate, as always, in grace and truth. Jesus said in John 13:34-35 that people should know we are His disciples by our Christlike love for one another. The world expects us to be harsh, judgmental, and unmerciful. Let’s show them what a family of grace and truth looks like and, in doing so, we’ll be able to show them Jesus.



OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Our Statement of Faith (below) is found in Article V of our Constitution. It describes the doctrine that is intended to be the basis for teaching in Grace Church Jarrell. To hold positions within this church, all elders, ministerial staff, deacons and teachers must also agree with this Statement of Faith. If an individual considering such a position has any areas of concern about the doctrine herein, they should inform the Elders before assuming the position in order to reach suitable resolution.

By covenanting with us in membership you are saying that you personally embrace these beliefs or at least that you are not set against any of them and will gladly submit to our Elders, will be teachable, and will not be doctrinally divisive in our church. Pastor Kyle will be happy to discuss any of these further with you, if desired.

God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who know, love, and glorify one another. This one true and living God is infinitely perfect both in His love and in His holiness. He is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, and is therefore worthy to receive all glory and adoration. Immortal and eternal, He perfectly and exhaustively knows the end from the beginning, sustains and sovereignly rules over all things, and providentially brings about His eternal good purposes to redeem a people for Himself and restore His fallen creation, to the praise of His glorious grace.

(Genesis 1:1, 26; Matthew 1:18-25; 20:28; 23:9; 28:19; Luke 1:26-38; 10:21-22; John 1:1, 3; 3:16; 4:24; 6:9-14, 27; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; 20:28-31; Acts 1:11; Romans 1:7, 19-20; 5:6-8; 6:9-10; 8:9; 9:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 1:4; 4:5-6; 1 Timothy 1:1-2; 2:5-6; 3:16; Hebrews 7:25; 9:28; 1 Peter 1:3; 2:21-23; Revelation 1:6)

Revelation

God has graciously revealed His existence and power through all of creation, and has supremely shown Himself to fallen human beings in the person of His Son, the incarnate Word. Moreover, this God is a speaking God who by His Spirit has graciously disclosed Himself in human words: we believe that God has inspired the words preserved in the Scriptures, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, which are both record and means of His saving work in the world. These writings alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God, which is utterly authoritative, and without error in the original writings, complete in its revelation of His will for salvation, sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do, and final in its authority over every domain of knowledge to which it speaks. We confess that both our finitude and our sinfulness preclude the possibility of knowing God's truth exhaustively, but we affirm that, enlightened by the Spirit of God, we can know God's revealed truth truly. The Bible is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it teaches; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; and trusted, as God's pledge, in all that it promises. As God's people hear, believe, and do the Word, they are equipped as disciples of Christ and witnesses to the gospel.

(Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 4:1-11; 5:17-18; 22:29, 31; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

Creation of Humanity

We believe that God created human beings, male and female, in His own image. Adam and Eve belonged to the created order that God Himself declared to be very good, serving as God's agents to care for, manage, and govern creation, living in holy and devoted fellowship with their Maker. Men and women, equally made in the image of God, enjoy equal access to God by faith in Christ Jesus and are both called to move beyond passive self-indulgence to significant private and public engagement in the family, the church, and the world. While we readily acknowledge that God calls some men and women to remain single for His kingdom, Adam and Eve were made to complement each other in a one-flesh union that establishes the only normative pattern of sexual relations for men and women, such that marriage ultimately serves as a type of the union between Christ and His church. In God's wise purposes, men and women are not simply interchangeable, but rather they complement each other in mutually enriching ways. God ordains that they assume distinctive roles which reflect the loving relationship between Christ and the church, the husband exercising headship in a way that displays the caring, sacrificial love of Christ, and the wife submitting to her husband in a way that models the love of the church for her Lord. In the ministry of the church, both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ and to be developed to their full potential in the manifold ministries of the people of God. The distinctive leadership role within the church given to qualified men is grounded in creation, fall, and redemption and must not be sidelined by appeals to cultural developments.

(Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5, 7, 15-25; 3:1-20; 9:6; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 16:26; Mark 10:6-12; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6, 12, 19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18, 29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 7:1-16; 15:19-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11, 18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8, 14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7)

The Fall of Humanity

We believe that Adam, made in the image of God, distorted that image and forfeited his original wholeness and intimacy with God—for himself and all his descendants—by falling into sin through Satan's temptation. While we acknowledge that Eve also rebelled against God, Scripture holds Adam primarily responsible for the Fall. As a result, all human beings are alienated from God, corrupted in every aspect of their being (e.g., bodies, minds, wills, emotions, spirits) and condemned finally and irrevocably to death—apart from God's own gracious intervention. The supreme need of all human beings is to be reconciled to the God under whose just and holy wrath we stand; the only hope of all human beings is the undeserved love of this same God, who alone can rescue us and restore us to Himself.

(Genesis 3; Psalm 14:1-3; 51:5; 94:11; 130:3; Romans 1:18-2:16; 3:9-20, 23; 5:12; 7:18-20; 8:7-8; 14:23; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 12:3; 2 Corinthians 3:5; 4:3-6; 11:3; Ephesians 2:1-10; 4:17-19; Colossians 2:13)

The Plan of God

We believe that from all eternity God determined in grace to save a great multitude of guilty sinners from every tribe and language and people and nation, and to this end foreknew them and chose them. We believe that God justifies and sanctifies those who by grace have faith in Jesus, and that He will one day glorify them—all to the praise of His glorious grace. In love God commands and implores all people to repent and believe, having set His saving love on those He has chosen and having ordained Christ to be their Redeemer.

(Genesis 3:15; 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 53; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 10:26-29; 18:37; Acts 13:48; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11; 2:5; Romans 1:16; 8:28-30; 9:11-23; 11; 1 Corinthians 1:22-31; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Revelation 5:9-10)

The Gospel

We believe that the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ. Utter folly to the world, even though it is the power of God to those who are being saved, this good news centers on the cross and resurrection of Christ: the gospel is not proclaimed if Christ is not proclaimed, and the authentic Christ has not been proclaimed if His death and resurrection are not central (the message is that Christ died for our sins . . . [and] was raised). This good news is biblical because His death and resurrection are according to the Scriptures. It is theological and deals with our salvation in that Christ died for our sins, to reconcile us to God. It is historical because if the saving events did not really happen, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, and we are to be pitied more than all others. This message was entrusted to and transmitted by the apostles, who were witnesses of these saving events. This good news is intensely personal because where it is received, believed, and held firmly, individual persons are saved. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone according to Scripture alone for the glory of God alone.

(Genesis 3:15; Psalm 22; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 53; John 3:16; Acts 2:23; Romans 1:17; 3:20-26; Galatians 3:10-14; Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 10:12-14; 1 Peter 1:18-21; 2:22-24; 1 John 1:9; 5:11-13)

The Redemption of Christ

We believe that, moved by love and in obedience to His Father, the eternal Son became human: the Word became flesh, fully God and fully human being, one Person in two natures. The man Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel, was conceived through the miraculous agency of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary. He perfectly obeyed His heavenly Father, lived a sinless life, performed miraculous signs, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead on the third day, and ascended into heaven. As our King and Mediator, He is seated at the right hand of God the Father, exercising in heaven and on earth all of God's sovereignty, and is our High Priest and righteous Advocate. We believe that by His incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus Christ acted as our representative and substitute. He did this so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God: on the cross he cancelled our debt of sin, satisfied the wrath of holy God, and, by bearing the full penalty of our sins, reconciled to God all those who believe. By His resurrection Christ Jesus was vindicated by His Father, broke the power of death and defeated Satan who once had power over it, and brought everlasting life to all His people; by His ascension He has been forever exalted as Lord. We believe that salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved. Because God chose the lowly things of this world, the despised things, the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, no human being can ever boast before Him—Christ Jesus has become for us our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

(Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14, 29; 3:3-21, 36; 5:24; 10:9, 27-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18; 29-39; 10:9-10, 13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-4; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8, 14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; 21:1-22:5)

The Justification of Sinners

We believe that Christ, by His obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of all those who are justified, and thus put in right standing before our holy God. By His sacrifice, He bore in our place the punishment due us for our sins thereby fully satisfying God's righteous justice. By His perfect obedience He satisfied the just demands of God on our behalf, since by faith alone that perfect obedience is credited to all who trust in Christ alone for their acceptance with God. Inasmuch as Christ was given by the Father for us, and His obedience and punishment were accepted in place of our own, freely and not for anything in us, this justification is solely of free grace, in order that both the exact justice and the rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners. We believe that a zeal for personal and public obedience flows from this free justification.

(Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:21-31; 4:3-12; 5:1-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18, 29-39; 10:9-10, 13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8, 14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 21:1-22:5)

The Power of the Holy Spirit

We believe that this salvation, attested in all Scripture and secured by Jesus Christ, is applied to His people by the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. Sent by the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ and is present with and within believers. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and by His powerful and mysterious work regenerates spiritually dead sinners, awakening them to repentance and faith, baptizing them into union with the Lord Jesus, such that they are justified before God by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. By the Spirit's work, believers are renewed, sanctified, and adopted into God's family; they participate in the divine nature and receive His sovereignly distributed gifts. The Holy Spirit is Himself the down payment of the promised inheritance, and in this age indwells, guides, instructs, equips, revives, and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

(John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:9-14; Romans 8:9, 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19, 12:1-31; Galatians 5:22-26)

The Kingdom of God

We believe that those who have been saved by the grace of God through union with Christ by faith and through regeneration by the Holy Spirit enter the kingdom of God and delight in the blessings of the new covenant: the forgiveness of sins, the inward transformation that awakens a desire to glorify, trust, and obey God, and the prospect of the glory yet to be revealed. Good works constitute indispensable evidence of saving grace. Living as light in a world that is dark, believers should neither withdraw into seclusion from the world, nor become indistinguishable from it. Recognizing whose created order this is, and because we are citizens of God's kingdom, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, doing good to all, especially to those who belong to the household of God. The kingdom of God, already present but not fully realized, is the exercise of God's sovereignty in the world toward the eventual redemption of all creation. The kingdom of God expands as the invasive power of the Holy Spirit plunders Satan's dark kingdom and regenerates and renovates through repentance and faith the lives of individuals rescued from that kingdom. It therefore inevitably establishes a new community of human life together under God.

(Psalm 2; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10, 23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:28-29; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 21:22)

The Church

The universal church is manifested in local churches of which Christ is the only Head; thus each "local church" is, in fact, the church, the household of God, the assembly of the living God, and the pillar and foundation of the truth. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only scriptural officers are Elders (synonymous with Bishops, Pastors, Overseers), and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

(Genesis 12:1-3; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23, 27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 12; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2:3; 21:2-3)

Baptism & the Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Baptism does not save a person, rather it is an outward demonstration, or symbol, of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection as well as our union with Him as we have died to ourselves and been made alive in Christ.

We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death, and is to be taken by believers only. The elements are not the literal flesh and blood of Christ but serve as a symbol of His sacrifice on the cross. As we participate in this ordinance, we are to reverently remember the cost of the gospel. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:18-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; 6:47-63 Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12)

The Restoration of All Things

We believe in the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His holy angels, when He will exercise His role as final Judge, and His kingdom will be consummated. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust—the unjust to judgment and eternal conscious punishment in hell, as our Lord Himself taught, and the just to eternal joy in the presence of Him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb, in the new heaven and the new earth, the home of righteousness. On that day the church will be presented faultless before God by the obedience, suffering and triumph of Christ, all sin purged and its wretched effects forever banished. God will be all in all and His people will be in awe of His complete majesty and holiness, and everything will be to the praise of His glorious grace.

(Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28, 35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7-18; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:21)

OUR WEBSITE

Scanning this with your phone camera takes you to our web site: www.gracejarrell.com



OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Just as a husband and wife exchange vows regarding their commitment to one another, a church covenant gives members a way to express their commitment to one another in the family of God. While all Christians are connected in Christ, those who covenant together in the membership of a local church are committing to one another in a unique and special way.

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully affirm our covenant with each other. (See Acts 2:37-47)

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (See Ephesians 4:1-16)

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others. (See *Hebrews 10:19-25*)

We will walk together in brotherly love, as we become the members of a Christian Church; we will exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require. (See *Galatians 5:13; 6:1-5*)

We will rejoice in each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows. (See *Romans 12:9-21*)

We will strive to demonstrate Christ to all who may at any time be under our care, endeavor to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example, seek the salvation of our family and friends. (See *Matt 28:18-20, Rom 10:14-17; 2 Tim 2:2, 1 Pet 5:1-5*)

We will seek, by Divine aid, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life. (See *Romans 6:1-23; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21*)

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical* ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. (See *Philippians 4:10-19*)

We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. (See *John 17:22-26; 1 John 2:18-25*)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen. (See *2 Corinthians 13:14*)

**To be "evangelical" is to hold a solid grasp of biblical theology particularly of conversion, the authority of Scripture, the centrality of Christ and Him crucified, and a heavy missions focus and orientation. To remove any one of those is to no longer be evangelical, or to say it more bluntly, biblical.*

grace

CHURCH JARRELL

Much like trees, Christians need five things to mature from spiritual acorns into mighty oaks:

- The nutrient-rich soil of Scripture
- The rain water of wonder-filled worship
- The fresh air of loving fellowship
- Adequate space for serving others
- The sunlight of “show and tell” evangelism

An essential key is that we rely on Jesus as we engage in each of these five areas.



This guide takes you through the inductive Bible study approach:

**A strategy
for balanced
STUDY**

- **Select a passage.** *What shall we study?*
- **Observe the passage.** *What does it say?*
- **Interpret the passage.** *What does it mean?*
 - HOLY SPIRIT REQUIRED: We must have the Spirit (saved) to understand spiritual things.
 - GOD'S WORD ABOUT GOD: What does God reveal about Himself through this passage?
 - AUTHOR'S INTENT: Rather than invent the meaning, discover the author's/Author's intent.
 - ORIGINAL AUDIENCE: The Bible was written *for* us, but not to us so note the original recipients.
 - CONTEXT IS KING: The surrounding verses, chapters, and book provide essential context for proper understanding as do other forms of context: history, culture, and language.
 - PARALLEL PASSAGES: The more clear passages shed light on the less clear passages.
 - JESUS IS THE CENTER: Use this lens: Jesus is the center of the entire biblical story. It's His story.
 - GOSPEL THREADS: God's holiness, our sinfulness, cross and resurrection, repentance and faith.
 - BEWARE THE NEW: God hasn't hid the meaning from everyone else for thousands of years.
 - HOW MANY SQUARES: Don't settle for what you immediately see in a passage of Scripture.
- **Live the passage.** *What does it mean for me?*

• Attitude to adjust?	• Priority to change?	• Prayer to pray?	• Lesson to learn?
• Issue to resolve?	• Command to obey?	• Action to avoid?	• Truth to embrace?
• Idol to tear down?	• Offense to forgive?	• New path to take?	• Sin to confess?


This guide helps you balance your prayer life with more than requests.
We sometimes pray through this at prayer meeting on Sundays at 9:30 AM.



A strategy for balanced **PRAYER**

- **Wonder** over who God is.
"God, you are ____ and it fills me with wonder!"
- **Appreciate** what God has done.
"Thank you God for ____."
- **Turn** away from sin.
"Father, I repent of ____ and turn from it now."
- **Entrust** your cares and concerns to Him.
"Father, I entrust ____ to your capable hands."
- **Request** for others and ourselves.
"Wise and generous Father, I ask You for ____."

In our Fellowship Groups, we prioritize the following three things:



The **Family** of God

- **Application**
Wrestling together with how to live out the Scripture from that week's sermon.
- **Intercession**
Praying with and for one another.
- **Relationships**
Imagine being truly heard, understood, known, and loved by other Christians who are spiritually running alongside you as you carry each one another's burdens with encouragement and accountability in the context of grace and truth!
May our church be this kind of family!

Try to have at least one of these **S.UN.L.I.G.H.T.** interactions each day; with the goal of enjoying all of them at least once each month.

We end each worship service by highlighting one of these.



g

- **S**erve someone in an extra mile way.
- **U**nderstand someone by listening well.
- **N**ame someone and remember it.
- **L**ift someone up in prayer right then.
- **I**nvite someone to a gathering or group.
- **G**ift someone thoughtfully.
- **H**ost someone in your home.
- **T**ell someone about Jesus.

The
Gospel
of God

Find your S.P.A.C.E. to serve others in our church family!

(This strategy has been used the least, only because it hasn't been necessary as people are enthusiastic about jumping in to serve!)



g

- **Spiritual Gifts:**
How do God's people affirm your Spirit-given unique effectiveness?
- **Passions & Personality:**
What excites and motivates you?
How has God wired you?
- **Abilities and Availability:**
What skills have you developed that encourage others?
When are you free to help?
- **Church Needs:**
What are the needs of people in our church?
- **Experiences:**
What have you experienced that might help you serve?
(education, work, suffering, military, ministry, etc.)

The
Generosity
of God



MY DESIRE FOR MEMBERSHIP

I desire to be a member of Grace Church Jarrell.

I have embraced the gospel of Jesus Christ, repented of my sin and placed my faith in Jesus to save and lead me.

I was baptized after becoming a believer in Jesus.

I have thoroughly read this Membership Packet. in regards to our Statement of Faith, I am either in full agreement or at least am not opposed to any aspect of the beliefs stated, and will joyfully submit to the loving leadership of the elders of Grace Church Jarrell to the degree that they follow God's Word.

In regards to our Church Covenant, I am expressing a glad commitment to all other present and future members of our church. As I follow Jesus, I will seek to be characterized by grace and truth in my interactions, especially with those in my church family, and I desire them to show the same intentionality, love, and concern for me. God's children are family and family is messy, but I hereby commit myself to graciously working through any frustrations and hurts in a biblical manner.

[For those who, up to this point, are a member at another church...] I have let the leaders of my former church know of my desire to become a member of Grace Church Jarrell. To the best of my ability, I have prayerfully communicated and worked through any frustrations or hurts associated with my former church. I understand that making this commitment will move my membership to GCJ.

Though I cannot know how long God will have me at Grace Church Jarrell, I am ready to go "all in" with this family of grace and truth, making much of God and making disciples of Jesus as we gladly go to our neighbors and the nations with the gospel. All of this by God's grace and for God's glory.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

[NOTE: We strongly encourage you to read over our church Constitution & Bylaws before joining. They are available on our web site and cover additional topics such as Church Discipline.]

If you desire to discuss membership with Kyle, before or after signing, please call him at 512.630.8734 or email kyle@gracejarrell.com.

KEEP THIS AND PREVIOUS PAGES FOR YOURSELF, BUT SIGN AND RETURN THE NEXT PAGE.

After that, one of our elders will meet with you, delighted to hear your testimony and answer any questions. Finally our members will vote new members in at the next quarterly Member Meeting.



MY DESIRE FOR MEMBERSHIP

I desire to be a member of Grace Church Jarrell.

I have embraced the gospel of Jesus Christ, repented of my sin and placed my faith in Jesus to save and lead me.

I was baptized after becoming a believer in Jesus.

I have thoroughly read this Membership Packet. In regards to our Statement of Faith, I am either in full agreement or at least am not opposed to any aspect of the beliefs stated, and will joyfully submit to the loving leadership of the elders of Grace Church Jarrell to the degree that they follow God's Word.

In regards to our Church Covenant, I am expressing a glad commitment to all other present and future members of our church. As I follow Jesus, I will seek to be characterized by grace and truth in my interactions, especially with those in my church family, and I desire them to show the same intentionality, love, and concern for me. God's children are family and family is messy, but I hereby commit myself to graciously working through any frustrations and hurts in a biblical manner.

[For those who, up to this point, are a member at another church...] I have let the leaders of my former church know of my desire to become a member of Grace Church Jarrell. To the best of my ability, I have prayerfully communicated and worked through any frustrations or hurts associated with my former church. I understand that making this commitment will move my membership to GCJ.

Though I cannot know how long God will have me at Grace Church Jarrell, I am ready to go "all in" with this family of grace and truth, making much of God and making disciples of Jesus as we gladly go to our neighbors and the nations with the gospel. All of this by God's grace and for God's glory.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

[NOTE: We strongly encourage you to read over our church Constitution & Bylaws before joining. They are available on our web site and cover additional topics such as Church Discipline.]

If you desire to discuss membership with Kyle, before or after signing, please call him at 512.630.8734 or email kyle@gracejarrell.com.

KEEP PREVIOUS PAGES FOR YOURSELF, BUT SIGN AND RETURN THIS ONE TO THE GIVING BOX OR AN ELDER.

After that, one of our elders will meet with you, delighted to hear your testimony and answer any questions. Finally our members will vote new members in at the next quarterly Member Meeting.