

## Purpose & Strategy Statement

You can download our Constitution & By-laws Constitution & By-laws (95)

### Our Purpose / Mission:

Grace Baptist Church exists to spread a passion for Jesus Christ through teaching the ONLY Word that proclaims Him as both Savior & Lord

### Our Vision: (Our Purpose is driven by our vision):

We have a great desire to bring glory to God alone (Soli Deo Gloria) by obediently making and equipping disciples of Christ alone in our local community and throughout the world, empowered by the Holy Spirit, sustained by His grace.

### Our Slogan:

Striving not to build a “great” Church but a “True” Church.

## Biblically Defining Our Purpose & Our Vision

### I. Why the Church?

God ordained the Church and sent His Son to die for the Church as the only eternal institution which carries His name and lives for His glory!

#### Matthew 16:18 (see 16:13-18)

I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

#### Ephesians 5:25 & 27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself up for her,<sup>27</sup> that He might present to Himself the Church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

### II. Who Is The Head of The Church?

Colossians 1:18; Colossians 2:10; Matthew 28:18; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 1:20-22; Ephesians 5:23

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. In Him, by the appointment of the Father, is vested in a supreme and sovereign manner all power (authority) for the calling (forming), institution, order, or government of the Church.

#### Colossians 1:18

He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

#### Ephesians 1:20-22

which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name

that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 and He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

THE POINT: “We MUST have a Christ centered view of the Church and not a man centered view” —Jeff Noblit

### III. What is the Church’s Main Purpose?—TO GLORIFY GOD

1 Chronicles 16:23-25, 28-29; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalms 19:1; Psalms 24:10; Psalms 86:9; Psalms 115:1; Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 43:7; Isaiah 48:9-11; John 12:27-28; John 17:4-5; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Revelation 1:6; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 3:21

In The Bible the Church’s main purpose is the same as God’s main purpose—to bring all honor and glory and praise to His name alone!

1 Chronicles 29:11

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.

Psalms 86:9

All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify Your name.

Isaiah 48:11

For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; for how can My name be profaned? and My glory I will not give to another.

John 12:28

“Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

### IV. How Does The Church Glorify God—BY OBEDIENTLY MAKING AND EQUIPPING DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 1:8; Acts 5:29; 1 Peter 1:1-2; Romans 16:19; John 14:15; Matthew 7:21-23; 1 John 2:4; 1 Samuel 15:22-23; Ephesians 4:11-12; Colossians 1:28-29; Acts 2:41-47

John 14:15

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Matthew 7:21

Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

Acts 5:29

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

“God does not want us busy in our church work, but rather obedient to the work of the Church”—Jeff Noblit

THE POINT: Making and equipping disciples glorifies God and is, therefore the work of the Church.

#### V. Where Does The Church Make & Equip Disciples—IN McNAIRY COUNTY AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Psalms 2:7-8; Psalm 67; Revelation 5:9; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-47; John 17:20-21

Psalms 2:7-8

I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. 8 ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.

The nations are a gift from the Father to the Son...they are His alone!

Psalms 67:7

God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Christ purchased with His blood all those God had given Him before the foundation of the world (believers) from every nation, tribe and tongue. This means that Father has glorified the Son and the Son has glorified the Father in the salvation of the Church.

Acts 1:8

...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

Now Christ, as our Savior and Lord, sends out His Church to preach the gospel and those whom He has called will answer. Praise the Lord! (Romans 8:29-30; 1 Corinthians 15:57)

THE POINT: The command to go into all the world was given to the local church, not to a mission board or society.

VI. By What Means Does The Church Impact The World—EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT & SUSTAINED (PRESERVED) BY HIS GRACE!

Matthew 28:20; Colossians 1:28-29; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 6:44; Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 3:16; Acts 13:1-4

Matthew 28:20

...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Colossians 1:28-29

We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Zechariah 4:6

'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD.

...I will build My Church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it—  
Jesus in Matthew 16:18