

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH PURPOSE STATEMENT

As we formulate a statement of the purpose of Grace Bible Church, we recognize, first of all, that **the chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.**

We recognize, secondly, that **God is building His Church**, the Body of Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, we recognize that **Grace Bible Church**, as a local manifestation of the Universal Church, is a family of confessing believers gifted by the Holy Spirit who gather regularly for worship and for equipping/ edification, in order to grow in Christlikeness, so that we are prepared to go into the world to evangelize it with the good news and bring glory to God.

Finally, **we as individuals** are a part of His Church, not because of any merit on our part, but because He chose us in Christ while we were His enemies. Because of His overwhelming love to us, we love Him in return, and choose to live our lives in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ. **Jesus said we are His disciples if we keep His commandments.** He summarized God's will for our lives in two commandments: **(1) Love God with your whole being; (2) Love your neighbor as yourself.** Then, as He commissioned His Apostles, He summarized their mission with this command: **make disciples of all nations.**

I. Therefore, the purpose of Grace Bible Church is to glorify God by being and by making disciples.

II. Objectives:

As seen in the Word of God and reflected in the above explanation, the church has three primary responsibilities:

To God Worship
To the Saints Equipping and Edification
To the World Outreach

As the result of obedience in these areas, individual believers will grow in Christ-likeness, and the Body will enjoy "the fellowship (partnership) of the Gospel."

Since all these ingredients are involved in "**making disciples**," we commit ourselves to these three primary responsibilities in the following ways:

A. Worship

1. A Weekly Worship Service. Worship is a responsibility; it is also a privilege; it is also a necessity for the believer's well-being. Therefore we will lead our people in a concentrated worship service each week so that worship will become a part of their daily lives.

2. Other Gatherings. Because we desire that our people worship whenever they meet together, we will also build elements of worship into all our gatherings, such as

- a. Calls to worship,
- b. Scriptural statements of worship,
- c. Prayers that direct our attention to God's greatness,
- d. Songs of praise, thanksgiving, and adoration.

B. Equipping/Edification

1. The preaching/teaching of the Word of God will normally occupy a major part of the meetings of Grace Bible Church.

2. Opportunities will be provided for the various age groups of the church to study God's Word in a variety of styles and formats.

3. Ministry skills and other important aspects of the Christian life will be featured in our Discipleship Groups.

4. We will stress the importance of all members using their gifts to serve the Body of Jesus Christ.

C. Outreach

1. Witness. We stress the importance of every believer being a positive witness for Jesus Christ in lifestyle and in word. A major dimension of this emphasis is a love for people demonstrated by a commitment to engage in acts of service for others.

2. Cross-Cultural Ministries. We want to continue to send members of our assembly to make disciples and to plant churches in other cultures.

3. Missionary Support. We want to continue to raise the level of support of those who are presently a part of our missionary family so as to increase their effectiveness both on the field and on home assignment.