

## Distinctives

Grace Bible Church  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

These are practices and beliefs that set Grace Bible Church apart as a unique body of believers in Jesus Christ. While we share some of these distinctives with other churches, these make up our church's unique way of worshiping, growing, and serving.

### **Traditional Worship**

We continue to enjoy the great hymns of the faith in our worship together. While much of the contemporary music has been found to be lacking in doctrinal teaching and faithfulness to the Word of God, there are a number of contemporary hymns which, being rich in doctrine or exhortation, we find quite useful. Many, though not all of these, are published by Majesty Music or The Gettys. It is a joy for us to sing music that has blessed believers for hundreds of years as well as singing a new song unto the LORD.

We sing with joy and gladness and our song leaders help us see the meaning in the words we sing while pianists, organists, and instrumentalists add to the worship of our singing.

### **Bible Version**

Back in the 1880's, a revolution happened in English Bible translation. Up until that time, several English versions had attempted to improve the English Bible by standing on the shoulders of those who had translated before them. The final version in that chain was the King James Version. The New Testament portion of each of those versions came from a family of Greek manuscripts which have come to be called the *Textus Receptus* (Received Text).

In the 1880's, a new revision of the King James Version was commissioned in England, and several scholars undertook the assignment. However, instead of improving the King James, these scholars developed a new Greek text, based on what we believe to be flawed copies of the Greek New Testament. The resulting text is now called either the *UBS Text* or the *Nestle-Aland Text*.

It is our conviction that the resulting text does not accurately represent the Word of God as He gave it to us. Therefore, we continue to use the King James Version in our worship services and teaching classes, even though sometimes we have to explain some archaic language.

**Note:** *We do not endorse the "King James Only" movement. We prefer not to fight about the issue, but just continue to preach and teach what we believe to be the faithful Word of God.*

### **Christian Education**

Although every family in our congregation has the freedom to educate their children as they see fit, virtually all of the families at Grace Bible Church home-educate their children. The result is strong families which interact well with all ages of folks. Our children tend to be biblically literate, well-mannered, and cheerful.

### **Baptism by Immersion**

We believe the scriptural mode of baptism is by immersion in water. Therefore, we encourage every believer to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we require such baptism for anyone seeking official membership in the congregation.

### **Fellowship Meals**

At least once a month, families bring in meals that we can all share together. We typically hold these events on the first Sunday of the month, after our morning meeting. These meals allow for adults, young people, and children to get acquainted, encourage each other in the Lord, and learn about needs and joys in each other's lives.

### **Biblical Counseling**

For several years, members of our staff and congregation have pursued training in classic Biblical counseling. This type of counseling is distinct from modern counseling because it honors the sufficiency of Scripture and believes that everything needed for personal and spiritual growth is found in the pages of God's Word.

Our training in biblical counseling has given us a unique ministry to other churches and believers in our area. It is our desire to equip more of our congregation in such counseling so that we can also reach out to the lost in our community, using counseling as a means of sharing the gospel with others.

### **Monthly Communion**

We reserve the final moments of our worship meeting on the first Sunday of the month for a Communion Service. All believers are welcome to participate. It is time to refresh our memories about the death of the Lord Jesus Christ to purchase our redemption and His coming again to rule the earth.

### **Small Groups**

Our commitment to small groups has led us to establish Adult Bible Classes on Sunday morning and Home Bible Fellowships which meet weekly during the school year and monthly during the summer. The goal of these groups is to study the Word together, to pray for each other, and to fellowship with each other in more intimate groupings than is available in our Sunday meetings.

### **Women's Ministry**

**Keepers @ Home:** The Bible teaches us that older women should teach younger women how to be successful in their homes, marriages, and families (Titus 2:3-5). Our Keepers at Home program brings women together monthly on a Saturday during the school year. Women of all ages share in a Bible study and a practical home-making application.

**Joy Fellowship:** Once a month several ladies gather to sew baby items for our local crisis pregnancy center. This has been a very long-term ministry of our congregation.

### **Men's Ministry**

The men of the congregation meet monthly for encouragement and training in issues particularly related to men. The Men's Ministry team also seeks to harness the skills, interests, and abilities of men in ministering both to our congregation and to the community.

**Debt-Free Ministry**

Grace Bible Church is debt-free. The mortgage on our current property was paid off more than 35 years ago. Since that time, the church has made the commitment to stay debt-free. We are currently raising money to meet the needs of our growing congregation, but it is our conviction not to borrow money in order to complete that building.