

Statement of Faith by Scott Jeffreys

Having trusted in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, I joyfully and unreservedly affirm the following statements as a summation of what I believe:

I believe in one God who exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity is a mystery that can not be fully understood by finite human minds. Never-the-less, I affirm it because the Bible teaches us that God is both one and three. On a practical level, the Trinity is crucial because without it our whole understanding of salvation crumbles. If Jesus Christ is not both fully God and fully human then he can not save us from our sins, nor can he identify with us in our sufferings. This doctrine also reflects God's relational nature. The inner shared relationship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is a relationship of love, submission, mutuality, devotion, sacrifice, and fidelity. Because God is relational God does not need us, yet out of sheer love God created us to be in relationship with him anyway.

I believe all people are created in God's image, yet our sin separates us from God's Kingdom. All people have self-worth and purpose because they are created by God. At the same time, because of our fallen nature, all people are also rebellious sinners. Like Adam and Eve we fail to live up to God's holy standards. Our sin separates us from God's eternal kingdom and we deserve his wrath for our sin. The wages for our sin is death.

I believe that Jesus Christ alone is Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ died on the cross to save sinners and only he can get us out of the mess we are in. As the one who is both fully God and fully human, Jesus lived the perfect life and made the perfect sacrifice for his people so that we could be restored back into a right relationship with the Father. When we, by faith, embrace Jesus Christ our salvation becomes effectual and we are saved from our sin. It is by grace alone that we come to him as Lord and Savior. Without the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives we will not embrace Jesus Christ as Lord.

I believe that God calls Christians to a life of holiness, out of gratitude for God's grace in Jesus Christ. When we are saved by God it is for a purpose. God wants to change our lives and restore all that is broken in us by making us into the image of Christ. This journey of transformation is a continual process that is never completed in this life. Even though we can not earn our salvation by being good, we still strive to grow in holiness out of gratitude for what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. We do not make progress in the Christian life in our own strength; the Holy Spirit must empower us to grow in holiness and obedience to God.

I believe the Bible is the Word of God. In the Bible, the inspired and infallible Word of God, God has spoken clearly to us about all that is necessary to know God and to live a life that is pleasing to him. God's supreme revelation in Jesus Christ stands at the very core of the Bible. I also believe that without the gracious work of the Holy Spirit in our lives the Bible will not become the Word of God to us. The inward illuminating work of the Spirit must first open our eyes to its truth.

I believe the church is comprised of all people who confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. The church is not just a building; it's the people of God who have faith in Jesus Christ. Within her communion there are many different manifestations of the one body of Christ; the Presbyterian Church USA being just one of them and her local congregations being more uniquely another. God calls the church into being for the sake of the gospel and God's mission in the world.

I believe that God has instituted two sacraments in the church, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The sacraments are a means of grace; we experience the Living God through them. They are also signs and seals of the promises of the gospel. They remind us of what Jesus did for us on the cross and they assure us that God loves us and that God will be faithful to the covenant promises that God made to us (namely our salvation). I believe that all baptized believers and their children (by virtue of God's covenant promises) can partake of both sacraments.

I believe that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and that we will live with him eternally. Theologically, the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ reflects the great love that God has for his creation, including the material world. Because our whole beings are created in the image of God, and declared to be good, God does not just love our spirits, but our bodies as well. Thus, God will redeem the bodies of those who have trusted in Jesus by giving them new glorified bodies at the final resurrection.

I believe that Jesus Christ will return again to establish a new heaven and a new earth, forever freeing God's creation from the powers of sin, death, and evil. In the end, God will crush sin's power to destroy when Christ comes again to finish his work of redemption in the world. No one can fully understand how or when this will happen, or what exactly it will be like, but even so, on the grounds of Scripture, I affirm the truth and hope of the promised new heavens and new earth because of what it says about God's sovereign love for his creation. I believe that God always finishes what he starts. Come Lord Jesus, come.