

I believe there is one true God, the Maker and Ruler of heaven and earth, and in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who are equal in divine perfection and execute distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. I believe that Scripture, inspired by the God who is True and only speaks truth, is wholly true in its recorded witness and therefore authoritative and reliable in all matters of faith and practice and does not err in what it intends to teach. All of history is one unified story of redemption that climaxes in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. This history reveals God's gracious character and demonstrates to us that we are more sinful than we ever dared to believe, yet simultaneously more loved than we ever dreamed possible.

In the beginning, God created man and woman in his image, and they enjoyed a right relationship with God. By their transgression, they rebelled against God, so that all people are now sinners, by nature and choice, under just condemnation. All have fallen short of the glory of God and have created idols to love, trust, and obey instead of God. Yet God, throughout history, as recorded in Scripture, brought about a salvation, wholly by his grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son. By the plan of the Father, the Son humbly took upon him our nature yet without sin, perfectly obeyed God's law, and freely died to atone for our sins. At the cross, God's love and justice are supremely displayed. Having risen from the dead, Christ is now enthroned in heaven and is our all-sufficient Savior. All things are under the Lordship of Christ and he has been given all power in heaven and earth.

The gospel is the means by which one both becomes a Christian and grows as a Christian. Those who believe in Christ receive justification, which is pardon of sin and promise of eternal life. This is not by our works, but only by faith in Christ's work, by which Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers. Those who believe in Christ are also sanctified, by which they are progressively made partakers of God's holiness by the power of the Holy Spirit and through God's appointed means, such as the Word of God and prayer. By the Holy Spirit, believers live a life of repentance and faith. These two inseparable graces are rooted in a conviction of our guilt and soteriological helplessness, and demonstrated by turning to God with contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy. At the same time, we receive Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and rely on him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.

The Church eagerly awaits Jesus' return. Until then, Jesus has sent the Church to participate in God's mission, to proclaim the good news of Jesus, oppose injustices, disciple fellow believers, serve others, and steward creation. Jesus is Head of the Church, his body, and the Holy Spirit equips the Church with gifts for worship and service to the world. The true Church is present wherever the Word of God is truly preached and heard, the Sacraments are rightly administered, and ecclesiastical discipline is uprightly ministered. The Church is marked by unity, holiness, catholicity, and apostolicity. The congregation is the Church in a particular context engaged in the mission of God. The Church administers the sacraments, outward and visible signs of an inward and invisible grace. Baptism represents the believer's spiritual death and resurrection with Christ. Communion commemorates Christ's death, and Christ is mysteriously and spiritually present in taking it. It signifies the work of Christ on behalf of his people and seals it through faith.

I believe that Christ will return to judge between the wicked and the righteous. Christians look towards our hope of the restoration of the whole cosmos, in the new heavens and earth.