

Jennifer Pottinger Personal Statement of Faith

I believe that all humans are slaves to sin and are naturally against God without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This sinful nature hands us over to death unless we are reborn by God's Spirit. As a result of humanity's enslavement to sin, all are in need of salvation. Salvation comes through Jesus Christ who by His crucifixion and resurrection overcame death to cover our sins and free us from our bondage to sin and to be made right with God. Salvation is a gift God has freely given to those whom He has chosen to gift with faith through the Spirit as well as whom He has chosen to call for service and salvation.

I believe God exists as three in one as God the Father, Christ the Son, and Holy Spirit referred to as the Holy Trinity. The Trinity, which is God, has been since before creation and will continue for eternity. I believe that God created all things, living and nonliving, out of nothing and God's providence continues to be witnessed in creation. Righteousness with God is a gift freely given and cannot be earned by any human effort. Despite the sinfulness of humanity, God chose to provide the means through which justification of humanity is given in Jesus Christ. God came into creation in human form to become a sacrifice for our sins as Jesus Christ. Jesus came in two natures as fully human and fully God as well as holding the threefold office of prophet, priest, and king. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was brought into life through the womb of the virgin Mary. Jesus offered himself freely to be crucified to save us. After his death, Christ rose from the dead proving God's power over evil. I believe that the Holy Spirit is sent by God and Jesus to call us to God's purpose for each of us and to sanctify us making us set apart to be holy. The Spirit transforms us to live in obedience to God and with Jesus intercedes on our behalf before God.

I believe God makes Himself known to us through Scripture consisting of books written by the prophets and apostles. God continues to speak to humanity through Scripture and through the Spirit. Scripture is granted authority from God and is to be used as the authority for sharing God's word with the world and how we are to live our life. Scripture also reveals God's plan for creation in which Jesus will return to creation to bring forth the new earth.

Through Scripture, God is revealed to the church with Christ as the head. God initiated a covenant relationship with Abraham and the people of Israel. Jesus's sacrifice began a covenant of grace which brought all people into the covenant relationship with God. The covenant of grace extends to all of the church past, present, and future. As a sign and seal of this covenant, Christ gave us two sacraments. These two sacraments are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism symbolizes the washing away of our sins and welcoming into the community of Christ followers. The Lord's Supper symbolizes the complete forgiveness of sins.