

Dale Green - Statement of Faith

I believe in the one Triune God who enters our lives as Father - creator, Son - savior, and Holy Spirit - sustainer. I have faith that love, being in us, is the best evidence of our God-image that we cannot fully define or express.

I believe God the Father is the creator of all things in all times. Jesus called God; Father but God should not be attributed specific anthropomorphic traits. God created humanity as an act of love. As a parent, God seeks our love but forgives our failures as we live tainted sinful lives. God is constant and relentless in this love and forgiveness in love for the Lord's children.

I believe God the Son; Jesus the Christ, is our savior. He came into our finite existence, fully God and fully human, offering forgiveness of sin. In salvation, Christ offers grace to all; unmerited blessings when we deserve none and unmerited forgiveness when we deserve punishment. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection made a relationship with a loving God possible.

I believe God the Holy Spirit sustains and maintains our relationship with God in our lives and makes God knowable for us. In Her person, She empowers revelation in the scriptures, giving glimpses of the Holy in our lives to inspire and sustain our faith. We long for relationship with the Spirit who completes our prayers when we can't speak, opens the eyes of our spirit when we don't see, and whispers truth to us when we won't hear.

In Jesus, the Church was formed to be God's hands on earth; to make a community of believers, to love neighbors, and to spread the Word to all. The church is called to bring people together to worship in praise, learn through scripture, understand Jesus' gift and sacrifice, empower in the Spirit, and embolden people for service to the world.

Scripture is the authoritative word of God for all people. The Word is living and active and instructs how to live our lives as the Lord's creation. It is both a love letter from the maker to the made and a judge of the thoughts and intentions of the heart of man. Scripture enables the priesthood in all of us; opening a deeply personal relationship with God. The Holy Spirit awakens and inspires people of many voices to be servants and teachers of God's Word to the world.

The sacraments of baptism and communion bring us together as Christians in a common bond. We remember our cleansing in salvation as rebirth in water and blood; that Jesus' baptism into service with water set in motion His baptism into death for us with blood. We remember Jesus through communion; His body broken and blood offered for humanity; no greater love than His life given for us.

The Cross is the ultimate symbol of human cruelty and of God's loving forgiveness in the face of that sinful brutality. At the cross, mankind saw God-as-man face the evil of God's creation and give without limit, unto death. As we each face our own passing, final judgment, and destiny of our soul, Jesus' example in life is our refuge to grasp for eternity to come.