

Statement Of Faith: Chris Helton

At the very heart of my personal faith is my belief in and worship of our triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and he lived, died and was resurrected so that those of us who believe may have eternal life.

I believe that the way Jesus lived teaches us how we should live our lives, including how we should treat others. His death and resurrection freed us from the power of sin and reconciled us with God the Father.

I believe that those who have received this incredible gift have an obligation to tell others the good news. We also have an obligation to show others, through our actions, what it means to be a Christian. I believe that possessing a saving faith is only the beginning of our journey. We are called to act as the hands and feet of Christ while here on this earth. This means more than showing up for worship on Sundays. It means taking actual steps to help the lost and the broken wherever we may find them.

I also believe that we need to acknowledge the grace and mercy that God bestows upon us on a daily basis and extend grace and mercy to others within our churches and out in our communities as we go about our lives.

With regard to our Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), I believe that both are signs of God's covenant of grace through which he cleanses us and offers us a new life. Both are also simultaneously a gift of grace from God, his means of grace, and his call to us to respond to said grace. Additionally, both Baptism and the Lord's Supper unite us with the Church of "every time and place." (*Book Of Order*, W-3.0402 & W-3.0409) We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit through Baptism and the Holy Spirit is subsequently invoked when we participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. And it is the Holy Spirit which is at work in both Sacraments to prepare us for our work in the world as Christians.

Finally, I believe in the authority of Scripture. I believe that there is a power present in the Bible that makes it different than any other book in history. Through its teachings about the life of Jesus and more, the Bible has taught, helped and guided millions of people in a variety of languages throughout centuries.