

Will Ratcliff - Statement of Faith

I believe in one God, who created all things. God created Humanity in God's own image and has called us to display and reflect personal devotion through trust and obedience to God's Word and commandments. Because humanity has fallen from a perfect relationship with God; through disobedience to God, we live in a state of sin and depravity which separates us from our creator.

Because of the deep love God has for humanity, God introduced a plan of redemption that God has accomplished on our behalf revealed to us in the Bible. Humanity's redemption is centered upon the incarnation of God in the person and work of Jesus Christ. I believe Jesus to be the Christ of Hebrew prophecy, being fully God and fully human, I believe in his virgin birth, his sinless life, and his miracles. Jesus, through his death and bodily resurrection, has provided the incredible undeserving justification to humanity, which is grace, that we receive by faith alone.

I believe the risen Christ sends his Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of all believers, effecting our rebirth and working in our sanctification and conveying on us gifts for ministry. The Holy Spirit has been given to empower us for service and bearing witness to the kingdom of God. It has been given to God's people for the formation of a community of believers.

I believe that Christ has established a visible church, which is called to live a life of righteousness by the power of the Holy Spirit under the instruction and authority of holy scripture: exercising discipleship and discipline, administering the sacraments, and proclaiming a message of hope, grace and love to all humanity. That is the Gospel of Christ.

I believe that the Bible in its fullness is the holy and divinely inspired word of God. That we are to be guided by the authority of holy scripture, acknowledging it to be passing on the full power of God's authority.

I am committed to the implementation of the social and justice implications of God's commandments for humanity and God's environment. I believe my faith should be visible and a tangible model of Christ in all that I do. I seek to be a faithful disciple of Christ, enduring in love and obedience until the kingdom to come is established through him. I also follow and look for guidance in the Book of Confessions.

I believe in the sacraments of baptism and communion as being central parts of Christian faith. Through baptism we are ingrafted into the family of God. This is the Church and in communion we remember the body and blood of Jesus Christ and the sacrifice of his life so that we may be forgiven of our sins and live eternally with God.

I believe in the spiritual unity of all believers through our Lord Jesus Christ as we seek to live out our faith in the community and the world. Finally, I strive to live out a caring, effective love relationship with Jesus Christ and a lifestyle dedicated to obeying God's will. I understand that to this requires daily devotional times, prayer and studying of God's word, a joyful willingness to serve our Lord, even through personal sacrifice, as well as, a firm desire to be God's child, through trust and obedience, and demonstrate a working faith in God's promises for all our needs and daily situations.

My faith walk in Christ has already been tested with my stint with cancer. When I truly felt the need to rely on God to meet all my needs during those long treatment sessions. I learned then what I know now that is the importance of rallying to the faith journey as a pilgrim and not just commenting on faith as a bystander. I thank God today for this lesson learned early on in my faith journey. To God be all the Glory.