

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe the Bible is God's word. I believe that God is the creator of all that exists. Because I believe these statements to be true, I believe in the virgin birth of God-'s Son, Jesus Christ.

God has shown through the Scriptures that he is a loving God who wants all his creation to be in relationship with him. When the first humans walked in the garden with God, it demonstrated that a personal relationship with God was not only desired, but also possible.

When that relationship was destroyed by the first human's disobedience, there was no way for humanity to restore it. Until Christ came into the world, humanity was unable to be reconciled to God. Scripture tells us that God is manifested to us in three "persons"; God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe God's kingdom to be a spiritual kingdom. Every human has a "God connection" in the form of what we call our human spirit. Until we are in tune with God's Spirit, (the Holy Spirit) we have no rest or peace in our spirit.

God provided the way for our spirits to be reconciled by coming to our physical world as Christ to die (physically) on the cross. His obedience to death took the place of our disobedience to God's will, so that we can be in spiritual relationship with Him.

I believe God gave us a pattern to live by in the Old Testament in the form of the Ten Commandments. What a different world it would be if there were no lying, stealing, killing, covetousness in our world! Those commandments (I like to call them rules for right living) were (and are) mostly ignored, so Christ came to give us a living example of living those commandments out in real life.

I believe there is a heaven and a hell. It is to be with God or to be separated from God. God has given us the means to live in relationship with Him through the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is through the Spirit that God is "always with us" as promised in Scripture. I believe there is a Satan, which Jesus described as "seeing only from a human point of view", that is not seeing from a spiritual (ie: God's) point of view. I believe that when Jesus said, "all things are possible with God" he was pointing out that what we are unable to do humanly, God is able to do, therefore I believe in "miracles". We not only see miracles described in Scripture, but we see them in the world around us. Ask anyone who has been cured of an "incurable" disease. Ask anyone who has been delivered from an "impossible" situation.

At the same time, we see examples of man's inhumanity to man all around us. I believe that to be evidence of Satan at work to separate us from God's love. It is evident in the culture of the idolatry of "self" and self-aggrandizement so prevalent in the world.

I realize these beliefs may seem naive to many people and they may be, but I also believe they allow me to love other people when they may not seem loveable, and to treat others in ways that I hope communicates God's love.

Rev. Clifford E. Horton