

SCOTT PHILLIPS STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in one God in three persons, the persons of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This Trinitarian revelation shows that God treasures and lives in a constant state of self-giving love and relationship. I believe that God is the sovereign creator of us all and has created each one of us to form a relationship with God's self. We are, however, creatures who have fallen. Every part of our being is corrupted by the reality of sin, to the point that we cannot recognize or respond to the love of God without God moving first. The primary means that God reveals God's nature and calls us to relationship is the person of the eternal Word, Jesus Christ. Jesus demonstrated God's love, care, and plan for humankind through his life, death, and resurrection. Jesus Christ, the atoning sacrifice, is the Lord and Savior of the human race. Christ's teaching, preaching, healing, and self-giving love are an example for us all. Christ calls us, through God's boundless grace, to a self-giving, loving relationship with God. The Holy Spirit is the presence of God working in and through the church and the individual lives of those it indwells. The Holy Spirit calls us to relationship and understanding, opens our eyes to read and interpret Scripture, and calls us to use our particular gifts and abilities in service to God. The Spirit is a regenerating force that changes the world as it breathes the realities of God into our daily lives. Scripture is our best witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ. Scripture carries authority in that it is the early church's primary witness to the interaction between God and humankind, including the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Scripture is at once inspired by human beings and inspired by the Holy Spirit. The church is the Body of Christ in the world and is called to point all to the world-changing power of God. The church is empowered to preach, teach, serve, seek justice, love, and serve by the Holy Spirit. The church is called, at once, to fill itself with the realities of God and empty itself in the service of others and God. The sacraments are where the Body of Christ encounters the presence of Christ. At the table, we gather with the saints to proclaim, remember, and experience the divine gift of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the font, we encounter the eternal and unearned love and grace of God and promise, once again, to instruct and care for each other. In the sacraments, the church is claimed and sustained by the hand of God in Christ. As the Body of Christ we are all eternally called to find and welcome more and more people to God's loving embrace. We are called, as the church, to love as God has loved us: self-sacrificially, wholly, and radically. God calls us and chooses us, first and foremost, to serve. We do this because God has shown us such love, grace, peace, and purpose that we cannot help but share it with as many people as we can.