

Marcus C. Lambright

Statement of Faith

May 5, 2019

I believe in a Triune, living God; God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe God is one and God is three; three distinct persons of the same substance without confusion who rule equal in power, coeternally. I believe God created all things good, both great and small.

I believe sin is any thought or action against self, others, or God that is in opposition to God's will. I believe all are sinners. I believe sin occurs by acts of omission and commission, is a part of evil, and is an inexplicable existence in opposition to God.

I believe grace is a gift of God. This gift was given freely, undeserved, for the forgiveness of sin and salvation of creation by God's mercy. Grace was given by way of Christ's sacrifice, who willingly took the sin of creation upon himself, and died on the cross. By Grace, he rose again.

I believe faith is a gift of God. I believe it is a conviction in God that may grow, shrink, mature, be born, and die. However, I believe God sustains our faith by the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe it is a gift of God by which: we receive God's grace, follow Christ's example, proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, serve others, and live our lives. I affirm the Brief Statement of Faith and I regard the Book of Confessions as authoritative.

I believe the Church is the visible sign of Christ's resurrection, the community of believers, who are sent to serve creation. The Church is the body of Christ. I believe the Church is made up of sinners, imperfect people living and serving other imperfect people, saved by grace, guided by Scripture and the Holy Spirit. I believe doctrines are helpful in discerning God's will for the Church and maintaining order in her life; to exemplify and teach about God's mercy, love, and justice Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and the Holy Spirit's power, presence, and joy.

I believe the sacraments are common elements transformed by God, instituted by Jesus Christ, and consecrated by the Holy Spirit for the sake of humanity. I believe sacraments represent the sign and seal of the very real benefits of a life with Christ as Scripture describes them.

I regard baptism as a sacrament in accord with Christian tradition. I believe baptism symbolizes the cleansing of one's sins, an outward sign of one accepting God's grace, God's seal of us into the body of Christ, the consecration by the Holy Spirit, and the recognition of one entering into the Church universal. I believe baptism is the start of a new life in faith.

I regard the Lord's Supper as a sacrament. I believe it is the sign of God's grace and reconciliation with humanity to be received by all faithful believers in remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. I believe it is to be shared with the Church and received in faith.

I believe Scripture is the inspired Word of God, given by God, to govern and teach humanity what to believe about God. It is the basis of our doctrines and the authority of our religion. It is meant to be proclaimed and received by faith and understood by reason.

I believe in the hope promised by God and reaffirmed by Jesus Christ. Scripture communicates the hope of abundant life and an everlasting relationship of reconciliation with creation. Just as the Lord's Prayer alludes to it in high expectation, the kingdom of God is here, but not yet come.