

Statement of Faith

David McNeilly

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I believe in God. Aware that I am a created being, beholding the glory of creation about me and yet finding myself to be in need of grace; I realize it is good for me to be foundationally grateful, that life is best when beheld in wonder and awe, and that grace is how the Creator blesses.

But it is in Jesus that I find a more personal and knowable image of God for my faith. When Jesus said he and the Creator were 'one,' he spoke a truth that has challenged me to the foundations of my being. So I not only believe that Jesus' Way is a demonstration of God's Will for life in this world, I also believe God is as Jesus proclaimed God to be. When Jesus was graceful to all, I see God blessing. When Jesus practiced fundamental compassion, I see God healing. When Jesus faced the ultimate rejection of the Cross, I see God responding to all the wrong present in this world wonderfully, powerfully, gracefully with resurrection.

Indeed, as I look to Jesus, I see the very personality and presence of the eternal God revealed to me – forgiving me when needed, but also calling me to forgive and to be for all that is right and true and good for life. My faithful response, therefore, is to be a disciple of Jesus in this current age.

Aware that discipleship in this current age is overwhelmingly challenging, I count upon the Spirit of God to strengthen me, help me and hold my faith together. So my faith is not merely believing in past events, but is constantly founded in the present. It is the Spirit of God that enables me to believe in the worst of times and calls me to remain faithful when I would be tempted to set Gospel aside. It is the Spirit of God that picks me up after falling and places me upon a rock. It is the Spirit that speaks to me of hope and grace – now.

Or, I believe in the Creator, present in this world through Christ and still at work in the here and now through the Holy Spirit – a Triune God.

To me the Church is the Body of Christ, not because of its correctness or perfection, but because God stands by it and works through it to reconcile. The Sacraments of Communion and Baptism bring Divine presence that blesses, again not through correct application or perfect faith, but simply because God chooses to be present through them as needed. And while the Church can be a very human place, at times, because God is God, the Church will continue to do divinely for this world as Jesus did for his – blessing, renewing and reconciling.

The Scriptures are God's word to me, but not in a static manner that would allow me the right to do harm or withhold blessing. As Jesus used the Scripture of his day to find his Gospel, I seek to use them today. As Jesus chose to set them aside at times in order to do what was needed or bless, well humbly and with my Church, I at times, do the same. But I love the Book, read it daily and preach it weekly.

And concerning eternity, I believe heaven is where I will again meet so many who have been of such wonderful blessing to me in this world.

Or in fellowship with my Church, challenged and blessed by the Spirit, and in the light of Scripture, I seek to find how the Triune God would have me believe and live each and every day with compassion and hope.

Pertaining to other matters of a creedal statement, I am happy to respond honestly and faithfully, as requested. But bottom line to me is: I believe Jesus' Way is God's Way, and I believe the Oneness Jesus experienced and celebrated with God, reveals to me who my Creator is.