

Statement of Faith

Paul Stuart Seelman

I believe in only one living and true God who is infinite, holy, and loving. Within the Godhead are three persons of one substance, with no confusion, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, without beginning or end, full of light and life: pure love.

I believe that this good and loving God was active, creating all that is, our world unmarred in the beginning, without sin, a place of abundance for real life. Pride and rebellion entered into the human family, laying us low from our former glory and damaging the relationship with God beyond our own repair. This sin corrupted our wholly good nature and brought death humanity.

From that time on, God worked through faithful and flawed patriarchs and matriarchs to make a new way for humanity to live in restored relationship with God. God chose a line and a people within the human family through covenant to bring salvation to all.

In the fullness of time, God sent the perfect revelation of God's love in a beloved Son. The only begotten Son, co-existent in the Godhead, took on human form, now both fully human and fully divine, to be a second Adam. The man known as Jesus was God's Son and our Messiah, living a sinless and righteous life, dying to set us free from sin and death. His life, ministry, death, and resurrection are a blessing and our salvation. In Jesus Christ we know fully of God's love and share in His calling to this ministry of sharing Good News with and for all people.

The church, Christ's body, is a holy fellowship called, equipped, and sent out by the Holy Spirit to share this amazingly Good News, to bring light and life to the people of this broken world. Amazingly, God calls an imperfect church and sinful believers to participate in sharing God's love. What the church has to share is known as the Good News of Jesus, contained in God's living and revealed Word, Holy Scripture, holy rules of life and faith and two sacraments. With the Spirit to inspire, all that is necessary for salvation is to be found in the Bible. What this love story of God for humanity discloses is that God never stops loving us, never stops reaching out to us. What scripture has us to believe is that God's love always remains and God's purposes to save and restore us will never fail. In and through Christ, the kingdom of God is a real and present reality today, as well as a future and eternal hope. God is making a new heaven and earth, and will raise us like our Lord and brother Jesus with new resurrection bodies to be with the Lord forever. Through Christ, sin and death have been defeated. These beliefs are our comfort and our joy. Thanks be to God!