

Carole Brewer – Statement of Faith

I hold to an orthodox historical Christian Faith, as reflected in these basic statements of my belief.

I believe that the Bible is fully inspired by God, that it is entirely trustworthy and is my guide for faith and life.

I believe that God is the loving Creator of all that exists, both seen and unseen. God is eternal and completely good, knowing all things, having all power and majesty. God exists eternally as the Trinity, in three persons, yet one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe that God expressed Himself in human form through Jesus Christ. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary and lived a sinless life. I believe He was crucified for the sins of us all, rose again from the dead and ascended to heaven.

I believe that the Holy Spirit, sent from God to live in all who believe in Jesus, teaches, comforts, and empowers us, giving each follower of Jesus diverse gifts for serving in the church and serving others in the world. I believe that it is through the Holy Spirit that we change and develop a holy life and a Jesus-like character.

I believe that all people are created with dignity and great value in the image of God. That people were created to live in a thriving relationship with God. However, through our sin (failing to live by God's moral standards), we break our intended relationship with God and we experience the sad consequences of that broken relationship, both spiritually and socially. However, because of God's love for us, He sent His Son, Jesus to rescue us from those consequences and to restore our broken relationship with God, through Jesus' death on the cross, a perfect act of redemption for each of us. We receive the free gift of forgiveness and are spiritually reborn through repenting (changing our mind and heart) of our sin and placing faith in Jesus alone.

I believe that the church is comprised of any person, anywhere in the world who puts faith in Jesus. The church itself is people who are empowered by God's Holy Spirit to be part of the mission of Jesus here on earth. The church is a global community, but has smaller local expressions such as my home church. Each local church expression has a unique personality and I see beauty in that diversity. I believe that the church does not exist for itself, but exists as a community of worshippers who are here to serve others, as we bring the love and hope of Jesus to the world around us.

I believe there are a literal heaven and hell and that one day Jesus will return. I approach topics of the afterlife and end times with great mystery and wonder.