

THE COMMON FAITH

A. The Faith:

The Speciality of the church life is the faith. In the New Testament the word faith is used with two different meanings;

1. First it means the action of believing. This is the subjective meaning of faith.

Romans 5:1. Therefore having been justified out of faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 2:8. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God;

2. Second it means the things in which we believe. This is the objective meaning of faith.

Titus 1:4. To Titus, genuine child according to the common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

2 Timothy 4:7. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

In the church life we have only one thing that is specific or special. That is the faith, our Christian faith, which is composed of the beliefs concerning the Bible, God, Christ, the work of Christ, salvation, and the church.

B. Concerning the Bible:

The Bible is the Word of God. We believe the Bible, word by word, is divinely inspired by God.

2 Peter 1:21. For no prophecy was ever borne by the will of man, but men spoke from God while being borne by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:16. All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

C. Concerning God:

God is uniquely one, but triune, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

Deuteronomy 4:39. Know therefore today, and bring it to heart, that Jehovah is God in heaven above, and upon the earth below; there is no other.

2 Corinthians 13:14. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Matthew 28:19. Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

D. Concerning Christ:

Christ was the very God in eternity and became a man in time. His deity is complete and His humanity is perfect. Hence, He is both God and man.

John 1:1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14a And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us...

John 20:28. Thomas answered and said to Him, My Lord and my God!

Romans 9:4-5. Who are Israelites.... Whose are the fathers, and out of whom, as regards what is according to flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen

1 Timothy 2:5. For there is one God and one Mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

E. Concerning the Work of Christ:

The main aspects of the work of Christ are His incarnation, His crucifixion, His resurrection, His ascension, His coming back as Bridegroom to the church and as King of Kings to all the Nations.

F. Concerning Our Salvation:

A sinner must repent to God and believe in Christ for forgiveness of sins, redemption, justification, and regeneration to have eternal life, to become a child of God, and a member of Christ.

Acts 2:38. And Peter said to them, Repent and each one of you be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 16:31. And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.

G. Concerning the Church:

The church, composed of all the genuine believers in Christ, as the Body of Christ, is universally one, and a local church as the expression of the Body of Christ is locally one—one city, one church.

Ephesians 1:22-23. ... and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.