

Denominational Concerns Open Forum #2

The Meaning and Importance of the Trinity in the life of the Church

Basics of the Trinity

How has God revealed Himself?

- God is one in essence
- God is distinct in three persons
 - Father
 - Son
 - Holy Spirit
- The uniqueness of the Trinity

The Trinity within the PC USA

A history of our thought on God's identity

- The Adopting Act of 1729
- The refining of the Adopting Act in 1758
- BB Warfield and the Doctrinal Deliverance of 1910
- The Auburn Declaration and the Special Commission report to the General Assembly of 1927
- The result today
 - The Reimagining God conference, 1993
 - The Trinity; God's love overflowing, 2006 and 2008
 - The recommendation of the ERC at the 218th GA

The Second Person of the Trinity: Jesus within the PC USA

The implications of the history of our thought on Jesus' identity

The result today is that it is not necessary to believe in any of the following to hold any office within the PC USA:

- Salvation through Christ alone
- Jesus' Virgin Birth
- The historicity of Jesus' miracles
- Jesus' Bodily Resurrection
- Jesus' Imminent Return

The Trinity at FPCW

Our clear documented stance on God's self-revealed identity

From our *Biblical Beliefs* document

In one Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (I Peter 1:2; Matthew 28:19). Pastors, elders, deacons & staff shall believe that the Persons of the God-head are co-equal in power and glory, identical in their essential nature, attributes and perfections and that they are co-eternal (Genesis 1:2; John 17:5). In His essential nature God is spirit as opposed to material (John 4:24); as to His essential attributes God is absolutely holy, embracing the sum of all moral perfections (I Peter 1:16);

Jesus at FPCW

Our clear documented stance on God's self-revealed identity in Jesus Christ

From our *Biblical Beliefs* document

That Jesus Christ, "being the eternal Son of God, became man" (Hebrews 2:16; John 1:14; Luke 1:35); and that He continues to be fully God & fully man, one glorified Person in two natures forever (John 1:14; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 13:8); That Jesus died upon the cross a vicarious substitutionary death, thereby making atonement for the sin of the world (Jn 1:29). Pastor, elders, deacons & staff shall believe that He is the only Redeemer apart from Whom there is no salvation (Acts 4:12; Jn 14:6); that His atonement is sufficient for the sins of all the world (Heb. 7:25; I Jn 2:2), & efficient for all who believe (Jn 3:16,36; Is 45:22); & justification is by grace through faith alone in Jesus only (Romans 3:21-28). That He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended into Heaven, that there in His state of glorification He is now the interceding High Priest, intercessor, and Advocate for all believers (I Cor. 15:20; Luke 24; Acts 1:3; Heb. 7:25, 4:15, 2:17; I John 2:1).

The Trinity in Central Washington Presbytery

Our clear documented stance on the identity and nature of God

- The San Diego Essential Tenets Document
- The force and effect of the San Diego Essential Tenets Document
- The implications of the San Diego Essential Tenets Document

The Implications of the Trinity issue

What does all this mean?

- FPCW is committed to God as He has revealed Himself, holy God three in one, and will not change her mind.
- The Presbytery has done its best to stand with us in this regard.
- The PC USA does not take a particular position on the Trinity and none of its governing bodies are allowed to do so either.