

Overview of Belief

The Deity:

YHWH, the God of Abraham and Sarah, is the creator God “whom acts in history.”

YHWH is known wholly in the life, ministry, and voluntary death by execution of Jesus of Nazareth.

The Messiah:

Jesus of Nazareth lived a life and ministered to Palestinian Jews with the understanding that he was a messianic figure, if not the messiah anticipated by some first-century Jews. It is through the faithful life lived by Jesus that God's plan to adopt the Gentiles into the line of Abraham and that salvation is effected. Salvation is not a matter of post-mortem bliss, but rather it is deliverance from bondage to the domination system of the world, and to a material existence void of meaning.

The Bible:

Scripture is the historical set of writings intended to inform subsequent generations about Israel's, and the Church's, experience of *YHWH* and Messiah Jesus. It provide the narrative and discursive boundaries for all interpretation and discernment of how God works within communities of faith.

The Ecclesia:

The Body of Christ is charged with reflecting God's love for all of creation, and serving as a living witness to the desire that God's creation live in justice and peace. The church should practice particularities such as non-violence, binding and loosing, and corporate interpretation of the text.

Sin:

Sin is real, but is preached by the church in a manner that wrongly highlights sin over redemption. Christ washes away all sin, and guides the people of Christ toward a *telos* that highlights sanctifying or convincing grace as a means of perfecting faith over time.