Statement of Faith

Luke Bultena

I believe in one God in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. I believe the Trinity is a mystery to experience rather than a math problem to solve. I believe that all God does is an action of all three persons distinctly and yet in unison. God the Father created all that is through the Son and sustains it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I believe God created humanity in God's image, and therefore created humanity good, but that humanity freely fell. In falling, humanity was warped towards sin and away from God. Now, humans naturally move from God and towards their desires; no one can approach God themselves. Humans keep the image of God, but it has been badly scarred by sin.

I believe Jesus is God, the eternal Son. Jesus is fully human and fully God, born to Mary by the Spirit. Jesus was born, died, and rose to save us - He is the solution to the problem of sin. Jesus is sinless, and yet took on our sin on the Cross. In his resurrection, Jesus defeated sin and death, freeing sinners to obey God joyfully. While Jesus came to save sinners, he also came to reveal God to us. In him we see God as good, loving, all-powerful, concerned with humanity, and as a Trinity of persons.

Scripture reveals Jesus to us, and is authoritative through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works in us to show Jesus Christ to us in Scripture. Scripture is authoritative God shows himself to us in it by his own power. Scripture's authority is absolute, the only way to know God and know the good. In keeping with the Reformed tradition, I believe our confessions to be reliable but not infallible summaries of what Scripture teaches us to believe and do.

Scripture reveals Jesus instituted two sacraments: baptism and communion. Sacraments are visible signs which take part in the grace which they show us and are always joined by words of Scripture. With water, baptism shows us that we have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and claimed by God as his own forever. Through bread and wine, communion shows us the real, spiritual presence of Jesus Christ in our midst and assures us of his love and our salvation.

The Church is the Body of Christ, the institution Jesus founded while on earth and the means through which God's acts in the world are most clearly seen. The church is visibly fractured, but invisibly united and is found wherever God's word is rightly preached and heard and the sacraments rightly administered. The Church's mission is given in the Great Commission and is to spread the good news of Christ and to reconcile all people to God and to each other.

I believe that in the end, God wins. Jesus will return as he promised and will take me to himself so that where he is I may be also. I believe that in his coming all will be made new, that

creation will be set right, that the elect will dwell in God’s presence in continual worship. I look forward to this great day of renewal. Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!