



The Westminster Abbey Church

To Connect People To Jesus Christ And To Each Other.

Pastor Dave Burkhart

6650 Faulkner Road
Westminster, Ohio 45850
Phone: 419 648 8151

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I said in last month's newsletter, we are going to be looking at the Catechism of the Global Methodist church and it starts with the question; "Do you believe in God?" This may sound like a really silly thing to ask people in a church newsletter. Of course, we believe in God, but then the question becomes, "What do we believe about God"? Or maybe we should be asking what should we believe about God?

The Catechism gives us the answer to the question "Do you believe in God" as follows.

My faith as a Christian is not something I have concocted on my own, I am not free to develop it in whatever direction seems right and good to me. It is, rather, "the faith handed down once for all to the saints" (Jude 3 DST), a faith that a great multitude- a vast "we"-has embraced, has communicated to me, and into which this multitude has invited me.

This faith handed down from the saints tells us that we believe in only one God. We believe that God purposefully and magnificently created "all that is, seen and unseen". Our Scriptures open with the stately narrative of God's creation of the heavens, the earth and all the varied inhabitants thereof (Genesis 1:1-31).

We also believe, with the Apostle Paul that God created all spaces and beings that exist beyond our power of sight, "whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers" (Colossians 1:16) all spiritual forces that are ultimately subject to God, since they exist only because God and therefore, pose not terror to those who belong to God.

We must also believe that God created everything and declared it to be very good. We however experience the spiritual, natural, and human realms all in serious disarray as a result of rebelling against God, but they were created good and God's purpose is to redeem them and set them in order once again. We believe that all God has created has great value and we, as created beings, owe our very existence to God. We owe a debt of gratitude to God, to use the gift of life to honor and serve our Creator.

God brought everything into existence in a perfect way and humans through Adam and Eve, defaulted on our obligations towards Him. Even so, God did not abandon His creatures, but invested Himself fully in their redemption.

I know that some of what is written in the Catechism may sound convoluted and difficult to understand, but we must understand God in such a way as to make it impossible to make Him into what "we want Him to be". That is exactly how people and denominations lose sight of sound doctrine. We don't want that to happen or we will also lose sight of who God truly is!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

"What comes into a man's mind when he thinks about God is the most important thing about him."
John Wesley