

Please join us for a time of prayer, Tuesdays at 6:00 in the Prayer Room

Hebron United Presbyterian Church



Essential Tenet #3 – Person of Jesus

Hebron believes:

Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator.

Also: **Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the names by which God has chosen to make Himself known.** Jesus is fully God and fully man. We confess, along with the saints through the ages, that “Jesus is Lord” and believe what He has said about Himself in Scripture, including, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” **John 14:6**

PCUSA believes:

“Jesus Christ is the only Savior and Lord, and all people everywhere are called to place their faith, hope, and love in him. ... No one is saved apart from God’s gracious redemption in Jesus Christ.”

(Hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, adopted by PCUSA GA 2002)

But the PCUSA has done:

- During debate on the “singular saving Lordship” of Christ at the 213th (2001) General Assembly, a variety of views were expressed about the Lordship of Christ, including some that described Christ as merely a preference for Christians and not necessarily the One in whom all authority in heaven and earth resides. Such notions persist today in the PCUSA.
 - At the PCUSA-supported Re-Imagining God Conference in 1993, several speakers spoke of

Christ’s atonement on the cross as an abusive patriarchal system, including the comment “I don’t think we need folks hanging on crosses dripping blood and weird stuff”. The conference celebrated and worshiped an alternative to Jesus – a goddess named Sophia. The 1998 follow up event included a milk and honey “communion” service, despite the correction of the offending staff members who participated in 1994.

- A Presbyterian minister (Dirk Ficca), at a denomination-sponsored Peacemaking Conference in 2000, asked, "What's the big deal about Jesus?" and suggested that Presbyterians should recognize other ways to salvation.
- In March of this year, Sixth Presbyterian Church in Squirrel Hill invited a New Testament scholar, Marcus Borg, to speak and preach at the Church. Dr. Borg considers Jesus a Jewish mystic and nonviolent political revolutionary rather than the unique Son of God. Although widely advertised in advance, Pittsburgh Presbytery offered no protest to this invitation.

The PCUSA’s tacit support of such heretical speech throughout the last decade and a half is very troubling. Rather than rebuking such falsehood and affirming clear biblical authority, there has been little to no response from the Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Synod of the Trinity, or any of the national offices. Such inaction speaks more strongly about the beliefs of the leadership of the PCUSA than do their statements about faith and life.

Our responses:

Partly due to the first Re-Imagining God Conference, Hebron joined the “Confessing Church” movement, affirming statements on Biblical inerrancy and the Lordship of Christ.

In a recent meeting between Presbytery officials and our Session, the Marcus Borg incident was discussed at length. The Session is disappointed that he was allowed to preach on Sunday morning without apparent consequence for the host church. The Presbytery *did not believe it was their role* to discipline or to rebuke Sixth Presbyterian; rather, they felt such a response should come from churches like Hebron.

NEXT: Essential Tenet #4: Holy Spirit/Trinity

Hebron New Wineskins Task Force
Series available at www.hebrononline.org

