

# PAUL QUINN

## Confession of Our Faith: The Doctrinal Statement

Paul Quinn College, its students and employees, affirm the Biblical and theological foundations of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and commit ourselves to fulfilling the mission and philosophy of education that reflects our foundations. These beliefs are enumerated in the Articles of Religion, the Standard Sermons of John Wesley and the Apostle's Creed.

### Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead; and buried. The third day he arose from the dead' he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

### Foundational Beliefs

**The Trinity:** There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in unity of this God-head, there are three persons of one substance, power and eternity; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. (Article I)

**Deity and Humanity of Christ:** The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the God-head and manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very man, who suffered, was crucified, dead and buried, to reconcile his Father to us and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for actual sins of men. (Article II)

**The Bible:** The Bible is primary, authoritative and informative in all matters of faith and practice; all Scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation; so that whatever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scriptures, we do understand those canonical books of the Old and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church. (Article IV)

Creation: God is creator of all. (Genesis 1:1) "All things where made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:3) We agree with John Wesley (Sermon 56) when he said, "When God created the heavens and the earth and all that is therein, at the conclusion of each day's work it is said, "And God saw that it was good."" (Genesis 1:1-27). Thus, we believe that creation occurred in six literal days.

Redemption: Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Ghost and unpardonable. Wherefore, the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after justification. After we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given and fall into sin and by the grace of God, rise again and amend your lives. And therefore, they are to be condemned who say they can do no more sin as long as they live here; or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent. (Article XII)

Salvation: We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by faith and not by our own works or deserving; wherefore, that we are justified by faith only, is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort. (Article IX)

Second Coming: Jesus Christ his only son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead; and buried. The third day he arose from the dead' he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. (Apostle's Creed)

Heaven and Hell: And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage and I will be his God and he will be my son. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:5-8)

Satan: Satan is a real being, a fallen angel, the tempter and the accuser. We believe we are to follow the admonition of James: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7)