

15. Faith

BC 22; Canons 3&4:9,14; 5:9-13, e5, e7

True Faith

The bond of faith & conscious faith

Can have the bond in the womb; Conscious faith comes later.

All Christ's benefits are received by faith [LD 7; Eph. 3:17].

True faith is... [LD 7]

Certain knowledge whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed in His word.

Assured confidence that salvation is given to me only for the sake of Christ's merits.

Embraces Christ Seeks nothing more [BC 22]

Our knowledge of God is based on the infallibly inspired Scriptures.

The Holy Spirit uses gospel preaching to work in us faith.

Uses the sacraments to strengthen our faith.

The Holy Spirit assures us that we are saved in Christ.

We observe within ourselves the marks of a believer [Canons 1:12; 5:e5]

2 examples of dead faith [Canons 3&4:9; 5:e7].

[Historical faith] Merely admitting what Scripture says is true [James 2:19]

[Temporary faith] Outwardly confessing the truth with joy for awhile [Lk. 8:13]

The Gift of Faith

God gives faith only to the elect [Acts 13:48; Canons 1:6]

Proof that faith is completely a gift of God.

[Phil. 1:29] Faith & suffering for Christ's sake are gifts

[Phil. 2:13] God works in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Why we have the right to receive the gift of faith.

Because Christ by His death purchased faith for us [Canons 2:8, e3].

2 wrong views of what it means that faith is a gift [Canons 3&4:14]

God offers faith to a person, but the person must accept this gift.

God gives the ability to believe, but we must produce the act of believing.

What's wrong with each of these views [Canons 3&4:14]

God does not merely offer faith. He breathes faith into certain people.

God produces in us both the ability to believe and the act of believing.