

# The Presbyterian Church (USA) What We Believe...

## about Jesus

**Jesus Christ is the only Savior and Lord and redemption is solely through Christ.**

“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 PC(USA) GA 2002)

## about the authority of scripture

**The Bible is the one sufficient revelation of God in Jesus Christ.**

(The Bible is) “the one sufficient revelation of God in Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written. The Scriptures are not a witness among others, but the witness without parallel.” (The Confession of 1967, 9.27)

## about the Trinity

**God is eternally Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

The work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. (The Confession of 1967, 9.07)

The language of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, rooted in scripture and creed, remains an indispensable anchor for our efforts to speak faithfully of God. (*The Trinity: God’s Love Overflowing*, General Assembly 2006)

Question: “When we pray to God as our Father, do we mean that God is male?”

Answer: “No. Only creatures who have bodies can be male or female. But God is a spirit, and has no body.”

(*Belonging to God: A First Catechism*, General Assembly 1998)

## about ordination

**All persons are eligible, ordaining bodies judge who should be ordained.**

“No person can be placed in any ordered ministry in a congregation or council of the church except by election of that body.” (*Book of Order* G-2.0102)

“In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world.” (*Book of Order* G-2.0104)

Any member of the church who can respond affirmatively to the ordination questions without exception, possesses the necessary qualifications, and is duly elected by a congregation or higher council, may be ordained to serve as an officer of the church. (*Book of Order* W-4.4003 )

## about marriage

**Ministers and congregations determine which marriages they will celebrate.**

“Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives.” (*Book of Order* W-4.9001)

No minister or congregation may be compelled to conduct or host “a marriage service that the teaching elder or session believes is contrary to the teaching elder’s or the session’s discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God.” (*Book of Order* W-4.9006)



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