

Statement of Faith

I am adopting, as written below, the confession of Unitarian faith about God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit written by David Ferenc, founder of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church.

All translations were done by me.

About the one God, the Father

(Translated from the book: David Ferenc: Rövid magyarázat miképpen az Antikrisztus az igaz Istenről való tudományt meghomályosította, és az Krisztus az ő hiveinek általa tanítván minket, miképpen építette meg az ő mennyei szent Atyjáról, önmagáról, a Szentlélekről, bizonyos értelmet adván előnkbe. Alba Julia 1567. The Bible chapters David Ferenc cited were augmented by me with the verses using the KJV, 1611 edition).

we believe in one God who is the kind of Father of whom are all things and we are in Him:

1 Corinthians 8:6 “But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him”

who is the only Lord: Jude 1:4 “ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God”

who is glorious and the highest: Acts 7:55 “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God.”

Luke 1:35 “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee”

who is the only wise, immortal and invisible: 1 Timothy 1:17 “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen”

Romans 16:27 “To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen”

the God who is above all: Ephesians 4:6 “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

the only true God: John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God”

the only Yehova Father besides whom there is no one else: Isaiah 45:5-6 I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else."

the only source of our righteousness: 1 Corinthians 1:30 "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

who is the Father and God of Jesus: John 20:17 "I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God";

Matthew 27:54 "Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."

who is the Father of the ascended Christ, and who is the creator of heaven and earth: Acts 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands"

We believe with a strong faith most importantly that only He, through His limitless grace, saved us through renewing us by being born again, by baptism and by the Holy Spirit that was amply poured out on us through our savior Jesus Christ.

About Jesus Christ

(Translated from Latin original (Confessio Francisci Davidis de Jesu Christo quam ex carcere exhibuit Regnicolis, paulo ante mortem Thordae, in Transylvania, in convent regni, 27 April. Anno 1579) reprinted in Jakab Elek: David Ferencz Emleke, elteltelese es halala haromszazados evfordulojara. Budapest. 1879.

I confess that Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, the Son of God presented in the fullness of time, was God not by nature, but by office, who, according to the oracles of the prophets, and his own doctrine, taught by the power of his Father, and performed and achieved miracles. His honor, glory, power, and everything he had, depended on the one God the Father. And He desired that His son should be worshiped and honored in Him, that his word and teaching might be observed, and that it might be known that he was appointed by God himself to be the judge of the living and the dead, the teacher of justice, the model of the way, and a giver of life to those who are obedient, and who wait for his coming, and who has the power to open and close the books of life and death.

It is true that there will be a future, when all things will be subjected to him: when Satan is bound in the depths of the sea, and at the end destroyed by death. These things were given to us in Christ, and through Christ and his death, and taught to us through the sacred Scriptures. But that he was

identical God with the Father, or equal to Him, I deny, since it is a papistic opinion, and contrary to the sacred Scriptures.

How indeed he reigns in the heavens, how he intercedes, or how not: I agree that on this point the testimonies of the sacred Scriptures are conflicting, namely: I will ask the father - I will send another advocate, and: the man Jesus Christ is our advocate - he reigns and will reign. The manner he accomplished these things on earth, should not be applied to heaven now, as what used to be offered by prayer on earth, now that he is with the saints forever, his word would benefit all those who believe and follow him, as he himself declares in John 17 v 20, saying: I do not pray for you only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word. That is the yoke of the sacrifices of Christ, the attestation and demand of Jesus Christ; that is the perpetual covenant which God the Father has made with us, through Jesus Christ, which must last. When we are told to offer prayers through Christ, it is not that he now bends the knee or makes another long prayer to the Father. But these phrases: to intercede, to intervene, to pray, and the like, are to be interpreted according to the analogy of the sacred scriptures, and not according to human reasoning. For simply God, who is everywhere, and sees and hears all things, has no need of a Mediator, but it is said to us for our comfort, because the calamity and affliction of the saints are connected to the head, Christ himself, who now exists in heaven, so that they too may hate those whom God hates, and they wish well to those whom God loves. And even if these were to be interpreted according to habitual human understanding, it would not follow that Christ should be invoked.

Summary: All things the Holy Scriptures reveal us about Christ, I reverently embrace and attribute to him. In truth I cannot confess that he is the same God as the Father, or equal to Him, as those are contrary to the truth; nor can I take away the works of creation, preservation, honor, and glory, which belong only to the Father, and attribute them to the Son, but to acknowledge the difference, that He is God, from whom all things are, but the Son of God is through whom all things are, in reparation, reconciliation, regeneration, through blood, through the cross, and through death.

About the Holy Spirit

(Translated from the book: Dávid Ferenc: Rövid magyarázat miképpen az Antikrisztus az igaz Istenről való tudományt meghomályosította, és az Krisztus az ő hiveinek általa tanítván minket, miképpen építette meg az ő mennyei szent Atyjáról, önmagáról, a Szentlélekről, bizonyos értelmet adván előnkbe. Alba Julia 1567. The Bible chapters in the original were augmented by me with the verses using the KJV, 1611 edition).

We believe the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God our Father and of the Son:

Matthew 3:16 "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him"

Matthew 10:20 "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you."

Matthew 12:28 "But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you."

Luke 4:1 "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness"

Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

1 Corinthians 2:12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

1 Corinthians 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

2 Corinthians 3:18 "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Galatians 4:6 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."

Ephesians 3:16 "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;"

Philippians 1:19 "For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,"

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

which is from the Father, John 15:26 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me"

which is given to the believers through the Son: Titus 3:5-6 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour"

which is sent from God to be our Comforter: John 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things"

which is a teacher Luke 12:12 "For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say"

which is the giver of spiritual gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:7 "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

Hebrews 2:4 "God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will"

We can not call it God, because the Scripture does not call it God in any of the texts. Moreover, we can not pray to it or worship it, because there is no credible example of that. Thus, the modes of supplications, prayers, and worshipping given to us by Christ ought to be sufficient for us.

Matthew 4:10 “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve”

Matthew 6:6-13 “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. ⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

John 4:23 “ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.”

John 9:31 “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”

John 11:41 “Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.”

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

John 15:26 “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”

John 16:7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”

John 17:1 “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:”

Acts 1:2 “ Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:”

Acts 4:24-29; ²⁴ And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: ²⁵ Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? ²⁶ The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. ²⁷ For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both

Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, ²⁸ For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. ²⁹ And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, ³⁰ By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Acts 12:5 "Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."

Ephesians 1:12 "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ"

Ephesians 6:18 "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints"

Hebrews 8:6 "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises"

Clarity on practical aspects of the Christian walk

1. The Bible

I believe the Bible to be the inerrant Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and holy men of God wrote them down

2 Peter 1:20-21 "²⁰ Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

studying, reading and hearing the Words of God is the only way to decide to accept God's grace, to submit to God's will, and to understand the behaviors of the Christian walk

Romans 10:17 "¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

throughout the centuries textual corruptions found their way into the Bible, and the text of those corruptions is to be disregarded

Deuteronomy 2:4 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”

Revelation 22:18 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:”

Galatians 1:7-12 “⁷ Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. ¹¹ But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. ¹² For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The interpretation of Biblical text requires reference to the original Hebrew or Greek text, requires an analysis of that original text, and must take into account an understanding of the cultural and historical context of the verse. While some Biblical texts cannot be directly, ad verbatim, applied to our own historical time period, nonetheless, a symbolical, metaphorical and spiritual transfer of the meaning of Biblical texts for our lives is possible, and we must seek such understanding.

Colossians 3:16: “¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

2. Salvation, eternal life, righteousness with God, entering into kingdom of God:

Salvation is gained by the grace of God, through faith, and not works.

Ephesians 2:7-9: “That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Romans 4:4-6 “Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

⁵ But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. ⁶ Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works“

Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

Titus 3: 3-5 “³For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. ⁴ But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, ⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;“

Romans 10:17 “¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

3. Faith and deeds:

Faith must be expressed in spoken words and felt in the heart in order to gain salvation, eternal life

Romans 10:17 “⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”

John 3:14-16 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Hebrews 11:6 “ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Philippians 3:8-10 “⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, ⁹ And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: ¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”

The purpose of the earthly life of a born-again Christian is to build the kingdom of God on earth; therefore, deeds are necessary for a kingdom-minded life

Matthew 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

to build a house on a foundation that stands up to the fiery trial

Matthew 7:24-27 “²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

1 Corinthians 3:10-13 “¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”

to demonstrate the fruits of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:19-27 “¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

and to show evidence of kingdom mindedness

Titus 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world”

James 2:14-26 “¹⁴ What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸ Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is

dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. ²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

immersion in the Word of God, and teaching it to others

Romans 10:14-15. “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”