



~VIEWS ON SCRIPTURE~

(from various sources)

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SCRIPTURE AFFIRMATION #3:

"Scripture is a library of books that speaks in many voices. These books were written in diverse times and places, and reflect the languages, cultures, and conditions under which they were written. God's revelation through scripture does not come to us apart from the humanity of the writers, but in and through that humanity."

SECTION 163:7b-d

"Scripture is not to be worshiped or idolized. Only God, the Eternal One of whom scripture testifies, is worthy of worship. God's nature, as revealed in Jesus Christ and affirmed by the Holy Spirit, provides the ultimate standard by which any portion of scripture should be interpreted and applied..."

...It is not pleasing to God when any passage of scripture is used to diminish or oppress races, genders, or classes of human beings.

Much physical and emotional violence has been done to some of God's beloved children through the misuse of scripture. The church is called to confess and repent of such attitudes and practices...

...Scripture, prophetic guidance, knowledge, and discernment in the faith community must walk hand in hand to reveal the true will of God."

“A DEFINING MOMENT” (excerpts)

"Scripture is authoritative, not because it is perfect or inerrant in every literal detail, but because it reliably keeps us grounded in God's revelation.

...Over the last several centuries a doctrine of scripture emerged in Christianity that insists that all scripture—every single word—was directly dictated by God and is inerrant in every detail. This belief emerged as a response to the questioning of religious authority from

those who held that human reason alone was the most reliable pathway to truth. So, a doctrine of scripture emerged that enshrined the literal words of scripture as inerrant and as the sole authority on all matters.

This view still dominates much of global Christianity today. It also strongly influences more than a few members of the Community of Christ who have adopted it from the larger religious culture.

However, that doctrine, that view of scripture, is not how scripture was understood in Christianity for many centuries since its birth. It is not how Jesus Christ viewed and used scripture. And, it is not how Community of Christ officially views scripture today.

The church affirms that scripture is inspired, indispensable, and essential to our knowledge of God and the gospel. In addition, **we believe that scripture should be interpreted responsibly through informed study**, guided by the Holy Spirit working in and through the church. Scripture was formed by the community of faith to shape the

community of faith. Therefore, interpreting scripture is the constant work of the faith community.

Community of Christ also stresses that **all scripture must be interpreted through the lens of God's most-decisive revelation in Jesus Christ.** So if portions of scripture don't agree with our fullest understanding of the meaning of the revelation of God in Christ, as illuminated by the Holy Spirit and discerned by the faith community, **the teachings and vision of Christ take precedence.** This principle applies to all of our books of scripture, especially any passage used by some to categorically assign God's disfavor, negative characteristics, or secondary roles to others."

