



Living Out Our United Methodist Faith

LACE NKY District 9/16/17

Intro:

- Denominational Puppies
- Choosing which Denomination to Belong to
- What makes a Methodist Different?

I. Our Focus on Grace

- Wesley's belief of Universal Grace
 - Wesley Vs. Calvin (TULIP vs ACURA)
- God's Grace is Evident in Three Ways
 - Prevenient Grace
 - The God who seeks and loves first
 - Works in us in three ways
 - Creates a Sensitivity to God Seeking Us
 - Creates an Awareness of Sin
 - Creates the First Impulse to Please God
 - Justifying Grace (Imputes Righteousness)
 - Sanctifying Grace (Imparts Righteousness)

II. "Wesley Quadrilateral" (or better said, "Wesley Trilateral".)

- How we Approach the Bible is Important and why we believe what we believe.
- Albert Outler's summary of Wesley's Approach
 - Scripture
 - Tradition
 - Reason
 - Experience
- Possible Dangers when Each are Left Alone

III. The General Rules

- Requirements to Get in vs. Requirements once you were in
- Holding Each other Accountable in Love
- Wesley's Three General Rules
 - Do No Harm

- Do Good
- Attend to the Ordinances of God

IV. Membership Vows

- Low Expectations and Low results/ High Expectations and High Results
- What Do We Expect from Members?
- The Five Vows of Membership
 - Prayers
 - Presence
 - Gifts
 - Service
 - Witness

V. Catholic Spirit

- Ecumenical in Spirit
- Impact on Communion and Baptism

Conclusion:

- So What? How Can We Be People and Churches that:
 - Emphasize Grace?
 - Come to our Beliefs with Integrity?
 - Lives out our Faith as a Good Ambassador of God's Kingdom?
 - Expect more from our Members than simply being on the role?
 - Invite, Include, Involve





TULIP

Total Depravity
Unconditional Election
Limited Atonement
Irresistible Grace
Perseverance of the Saints



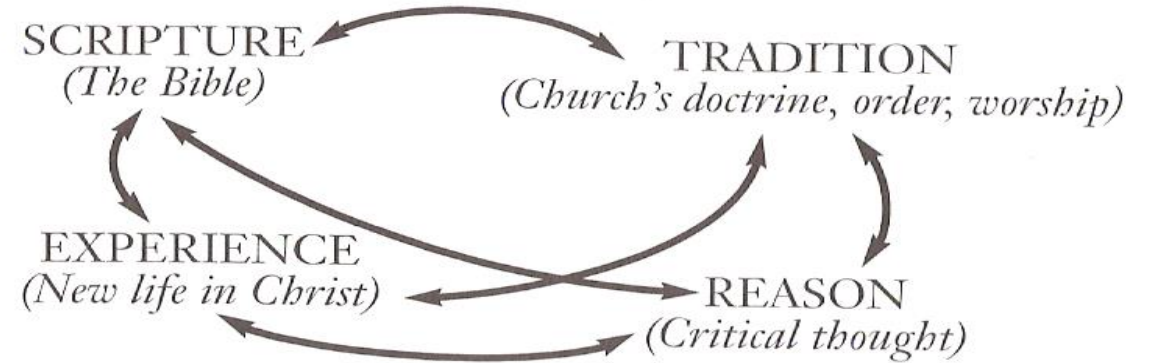
ACURA

All Are Sinful
Conditional Election
Unlimited Atonement
Resistible Grace
Assurance of Salvation

The Interdependence of the Four Elements of Wesley's Quadrilateral

We rely on the way of salvation given in the Bible.
 We use the Bible as a touchstone in examining real or supposed revelation.
 We take it as the final authority in matters of faith and practice.
 Thus we need to study and interpret it carefully.
 Roots: Protestant Reformation
 Danger: bibliolatry

We revere the ancient church as well as our own.
 We use the writings of Christians through the centuries.
 Particular value is given to the early church fathers.
 The standards of the Church of England are utilized; prayerbook and homilies.
 Roots: Roman Catholic Church
 Danger: traditionalism



The Holy Spirit uses scripture and tradition to bring us to faith.
 By God's grace we receive a personal experience of faith.
 There are variations of Christian experience; none can be normative.
 Thus ours is a "heart religion," but it is not dependent on "feelings."
 Roots: free churches
 Danger: "enthusiasm"

Reason lays the foundation for true religion and helps raise its superstructure.
 Reason helps us order the evidence of revelation and (with tradition) guard against poor interpretation of scripture.
 But reason cannot prove or disclose God.
 Roots: deism
 Danger: rationalism

—From Lovett H. Weems Jr., *John Wesley's Message Today* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1991), 13.