

WHAT IS THE REFORMED FAITH?

An adaptation of a brief and simple statement by Dr. Benjamin B. Warfield



THE BIBLE: We believe that our one aim in life and death should be to glorify God and enjoy him forever; and that God teaches us how to glorify him and enjoy him in his holy word, that is, the Bible, which he has given by the infallible inspiration of his Holy Spirit in order that we may certainly know what we are to believe concerning him and what duty he requires of us.

GOD: We believe that God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and incomparable in all that he is; one God but three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sanctifier: in whose power and wisdom, righteousness, goodness, and truth we may safely put our trust.

CREATION: We believe that the heavens and earth, and all that is in them, is the work of God's hands, made out of nothing in the space of six days and all very good; and that all that he has made he directs and governs in all their actions; so that they fulfill the end for which they were created. We who trust in him shall not be put to shame but may rest securely in the protection of his almighty love.

MAN: We believe that God created man after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, and entered into a covenant of life with him upon the sole condition of the obedience that was his due: so that it was by willfully sinning against God that man fell into the sin and misery in which we have been born.

THE FALL: We believe that, being fallen in Adam, our first father, we are by nature children of wrath, under the condemnation of God and corrupted in body and soul, prone to evil and liable to eternal torment in hell; from which dreadful state we cannot be delivered.

THE CHURCH: We believe that God has established his Church in the world and endowed it with the ministry of the Word and the holy ordinances of Baptism, the Lord's Supper and Prayer; in order that, through these as means, the riches of grace in the gospel may be made known to the world, and, by the blessing of Christ and the working of this spirit in them that by faith receive them, the benefits of redemption may be communicated to his people: wherefore also it is required of us that we attend on these means of grace with diligence, preparation, and prayer, so that through them we may be instructed and strengthened in faith, and in holiness of life and in love; and that we use our best endeavors to carry this gospel and convey these means of grace to the whole world.

GRACE: We believe that God has not left the world to perish in its sin, but out of the great love wherewith he has loved it, has from all eternity graciously chosen unto himself a multitude which no man can number, to deliver them out of their sin and misery, and of them to build up again in the world his kingdom of righteousness: in which kingdom we may be assured we have our part, if we hold fast to Christ the Lord.

GOOD WORKS: We believe that, having been pardoned and accepted for Christ's sake, it is further required of us that we walk in the Spirit whom he has purchased for us, and by whom love is shed abroad in our hearts; fulfilling the obedience we owe to Christ our king; faithfully performing all the duties laid upon us by the holy law of God our heavenly Father; and ever reflecting in our life and conduct the perfect example that has been set us by Christ our leader, who has died for us and granted to us his Holy Spirit just that we may do the good works which God has prepared before that we should walk in them.

CHRIST: We believe that God has redeemed his people unto himself through Jesus Christ our Lord; who, though he was and ever continues to be the eternal Son of God, yet was born of a woman, born under the law, that he might redeem them that are under the law: we believe that he bore the penalty due to our sins in his own body on the tree, and fulfilled in his own person the obedience we owe to the righteousness of God, and now presents us to his Father as his purchased possession, to the praise of the glory of his grace forever: wherefore renouncing all merit of our own, we put all our trust only in the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ our redeemer.

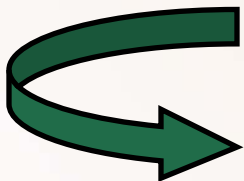
THE LORD: We believe that Jesus Christ our redeemer, who died for our offences was raised again for our justification, and ascended into the heavens, where he sits at the right hand of the Father Almighty, continually making intercession for his people, and governing the whole world as head over all things for his Church: so that we need fear no evil and may surely know that nothing can snatch us out of his hands and nothing can separate us from his love.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: We believe that the redemption wrought by the Lord Jesus Christ is effectually applied to all his people by the Holy Spirit, who works faith in us and thereby unites us to Christ, renews us in the whole man after the image of God, and enables us more and more to die unto sin and to live unto righteousness; until this gracious work having been completed in us, we shall be received into glory: in which great hope abiding, we must ever strive to perfect holiness in the fear of God.

“And to him, my Redeemer, with
the Father, and the Holy Spirit,
Three Persons,
one God, be glory
forever, world without end,
Amen, and Amen.”
-Dr. Benjamin B. Warfield

THE GOSPEL: We believe that God requires of us under the gospel, first of all, out of a true sense of our sin and misery and apprehension of his mercy in Christ, that we should turn with grief and hatred from sin and receive and rest upon Jesus Christ alone for Salvation; that, so being united to him, we may receive pardon from our sins and be accepted as righteous in God’s sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us and received by faith alone: and thus only do we believe we may be received into the number and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.

THE FUTURE: We believe that as Jesus Christ has once come in grace, so also he is to come a second time in glory, to judge the world in righteousness and assign to each his eternal award: and we believe that if we die in Christ, our souls shall be at death made perfect in holiness and go home to the Lord; and when he shall return in his majesty we shall be raised in glory and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity: encouraged by which blessed hope it is required of us willingly to take part in suffering hardship here as a good soldier of Christ Jesus, being assured that if we die with him we shall also reign with him.



Presbyterian Missionary Union
P.O. Box 879
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
208-267-9608
office@presbyterianmissions.org
www.presbyterianmissions.org

