

The Historic Christian Faith

Why are we here? To know (glorify, enjoy) God (and make him known) in all of his works of creation and providence.

Definition: What the pastor/teachers have agreed upon after much discussion summarized in the creeds of the faith.

What should I know?

Historic Christian Faith **verses:**

Christ himself gave . . . (Eph 4:11-13)

Unity in the truth (John 17:17)

Holy Spirit leading into the truth (John 16:13)

Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20)

Demolishing all arguments (2 Cor 10:5)

Levels of Reformed:

1. Traditional (raised that way)
2. Soteriological (5 Points of Calvinism focus)
3. Worldview (Reformed belief system worked into all areas of life)
4. Doxological (the chief end is the knowledge of the glory of God)

Creeds:

1. Acts 15: Council of Jerusalem. We are saved by faith, not sacraments
2. Apostles Creed: vs. Gnosticism
3. Nicene Creed: The Trinity
4. Council of Carthage: The Canon of Scripture
5. Council of Chalcedon: Dual Nature of Christ
6. Council of Orange: Free will and predestination

Reformation:

7. Reformation: 5 Solas
 - a. Sola scriptura
 - b. Sola fide
 - c. Sola gratia
 - d. Sola Christus
 - e. Soli Deo Gloria
8. Reformation: TULIP
 - a. Total Depravity
 - b. Unconditional Election
 - c. Limited Atonement
 - d. Irresistible Grace
 - e. Perseverance of the Saints
9. Reformed Creeds/Confessions
 - a. Augsburg
 - b. Three Forms of Unity (Heidelberg, Canons of Dort, Belgic Confession)

- c. Westminster Confession (Doxological Focus)
- d. London Baptist and Savoy (based on WCF)

Modern and Post-Modern

10. Ongoing Challenges:
- a. Faith and Reason
 - b. Ecclesiology
 - c. Church and government
 - d. Eschatology
 - e. Science and Technology
 - f. Social Issues
 - g. Heaven/beatific vision/the good

Questions:

1. Why **Confessions**?
2. How is Church **Organized**?
 - a. Congregational
 - b. Episcopal
 - c. Presbyterian
3. How does Church relate to the **State**?
 - a. Two Kingdoms view
 - b. Erastianism (state over church)
 - c. Medieval Roman Catholic (church over state)
4. What is **salvation**?
 - a. **Ordo Salutis** (Romans 8:29-30)
 - i. **Reformed**: predestination/election, atonement, Gospel call, inner call, regeneration, conversion (faith and repentance), justification, sanctification, glorification. From <https://www.monergism.com/topics/ordo-salutis>
 - ii. **Arminian**: outward call, faith/election, repentance, regeneration, justification, sanctification, perseverance, glorification.
 - b. Saving faith: notitia (intellectual understanding), assensus (intellectual assent), fiducia (trust in Christ alone)
 - c. Induced grace, supererogation, original grace (Thomas Aquinas Infusio Gratiae)
 - d. Hypothetical universalism (vs limited atonement)
5. Why do we need the **moral law**?
 - a. Antinomianism
 - b. Theonomy
 - c. Views of the Good
 - i. Will and outward dominion
 - ii. Otherworldly
 - iii. The knowledge of the glory of God is revealed in all his works

6. What are the **Sacraments**?
 - a. Transubstantiation and baptismal regeneration
 - b. Consubstantiation
 - c. Anglican “real presence”
 - d. Baptist “memorialism”
 - e. Reformed sign and seal
7. How should **worship** and **liturgy** be ordered?
 - a. Catholic Mass
 - b. Lutheran liturgy
 - c. Anglican Book of Common Prayer (Methodists)
 - d. Church Calendar (feast days, saints days, Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany)
 - e. Reformed (Regulative Principle of Worship vs Normative P of W)
8. Why sing **Psalms**?
 - a. Inspired or uninspired songs
 - b. Psalms: praising the glory of God; Hymns: doctrinal teaching; Spiritual Songs: relating personal experience to the faith
 - c. Why use inspired hymns? Why not sing all of the Bible? Why not use paraphrases?
9. What will happen in the **End Times**?
 - a. Preterism (partial, full)
 - b. Futurist (happening in the future)
 - c. Historicist (happening over the span of history)
 - d. Spiritual/Ideal: spiritual battle described in 7 ways
10. What is the **Millennium**?
 - a. Amillennial
 - b. Pre-Millennial (pre-trib, mid-trib, post-trib)
 - c. Post-Millennial
11. What about talking in **tongues and miracles**?
 - a. Pentecostalism
 - b. Continuationism
 - c. Cessationism (full, classical, concentric, consistent)
12. Why be **holy**?
 - a. The holiness movement
 - b. Pietism
 - c. Otherworldliness

Readings:

G.I. Williamson (Shorter Catechism, Westminster Confession)

Lorraine Boettner (Reformed Doctrine of Predestination and The Millennium)

Steele (5 Points of Calvinism)

Warfield (Westminster Confession)

Sproul (Classical Apologetics, What is Reformed Theology)

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/what-is-reformed-theology>