

What We Believe and Teach in the ARP Church

A) We are a BIBLE-BELIEVING Church

- i) The Bible is infallible and inerrant — 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ii) Characteristics of Scripture per the *Westminster Confession of Faith*
 - a. Necessary (WCF 1.1) — John 20:31
 - b. Authoritative (WCF 1.5) — 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - c. Inspired (WCF 1.2) — 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - d. Sufficient (WCF 1.6) — Psalm 19: 7-14
 - e. Perspicuous/Clear (WCF 1.7) — Romans 1:16

SUMMARY: “Since the Bible is the word of God, it is the only standard for what we believe (faith), how we live (practice), who and how we worship (regulative principle), what we are commissioned to do (ministry and mission), and why we believe, live, worship, and serve (doxology). In short, we believe that God’s word grows God’s people for God’s glory.”
~ RPCNA brothers in Pittsburgh, PA

B) We are a CONFSSIONAL Church

- i) We confess that Jesus is Lord - Matthew 3:13-17; Romans 10:9
- ii) We confess that the LORD is the one at work in salvation:
Ordo Salutis:
 - Predestination (Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:4-5)
 - Effectual Calling (John 6:44, 65; Romans 8:30)
 - Regeneration (John 3:3, 7)
 - Justification (Romans 5:1; Romans 8:30)
 - Adoption (Galatians 4:5-6)
 - Sanctification (Ephesians 5:26)
 - Perseverance (Philippians 1:6)
 - Glorification (Romans 8:30)
- iii) We confess the Bible is the ‘only rule of faith and practice’ (*WCF 1.1*)
- iv) We *confess* the Standards of the ARP Church (*Confession of Faith & Catechisms*) because they are founded upon the Word of God
- v) We *confess* that church membership is vital

C) We are a COVENANTAL Church

- i) Our history goes, as a particular church dates back to the *King’s Confession of 1581* by the Scottish Church and King James VI--this was also called the *National Covenant*

- ii) The word 'covenant', however, comes from an Old Testament ritual act that bound two parties together in an agreement/contract
- iii) Unity of the Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, and New Covenants (Covenant of Grace)
 - Scripture: Genesis 12, 15, Exodus 20, 2 Samuel 7, Jeremiah 31, 1 Corinthians 11, Hebrews 8

D) We are a COMMISSIONAL Church

- i) Because of what we believe, we are to join God on *His* mission
- ii) We do this expressly by the living out of the Gospel in our lives
 - This means personal obedience to the Great Commission
 - Scripture: Matthew 28
- iii) The Church functions as the embodiment of Jesus in the world
 - God, however, is the one who works and fulfills this mission
 - Scripture: John 13, Phil 1, Eph 2
- iv) Mission statement - Sharing the lasting hope of Jesus Christ
- v) Core Values - Scripture, Worship, Discipleship, Prayer, Outreach, and Community

Closing Scripture Hebrews 10:19-25

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."