

Doctrinal Statement of Comprehensively Reformed Christianity

Essential Doctrines

God's Word

1. God has chosen to reveal Truth as an absolute to mankind through the Holy Scriptures that have been transmitted as his written Word in the Holy Bible (Jn.17:17).
2. All Scriptures were inspired by God through the Holy Spirit who breathed them into the minds of chosen men who obediently wrote down God's very thoughts, attitudes, and Words (2Pe. 1:21).
3. There is no possibility of error regarding statements of fact or of historic events related in the original autographs of Scripture, nor can there be any fallibility in God's Word as pertaining to proper Christian faith or practice (2Pe.1:21).
4. All Scriptures were written for our instruction in righteousness, for reproof, and correction, and they fully reveal God's plan of redemption for the human race (2Ti. 3:16).
5. All doctrinal authority must be solidly based upon Scripture alone to have any validity; all extra-biblical teaching is mere philosophy that is subject to human sin and error (Col.2:8).

The Godhead

6. God is a singular spiritual being co-subsisting as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; one indivisible Godhead of three persons eternally (Mk. 12:29; Mt.28:19).
7. The three persons of the Godhead are equal in deity, holiness, and power and are therefore equally worthy of our praise and requiring our obedience.(Re. 1:4-6).
8. The Godhead subsists in eternity outside of time, which was created by God to regulate the created cosmos as well as the lives of mortal man (Ge.1:5; Ps.74:16,17; Jn.1:1,2).

Creation

9. God created the Heavens and the Earth out of nothing through the power of his Word alone (Ge.1:1; Ps. 8:3; Jn.1:1,3).
10. God created an innumerable company of spiritual beings, referred to as angels, to worship and serve Him (Ps. 148:2,5; Col.1:16; He. 1:14).
11. God created the first man, Adam, in His own image out of physical elements from which He had previously formed the earth (Ge. 1:26,27).
12. Adam became a living soul when God breathed the spirit of life into him making him capable of independent heuristic thought and awareness, greatly distinguishing him from all of God's animal creations, thus destining him for immortality (Ge.2:7).
13. The amalgam of physical flesh and spirit made man a little lower than the angels, who consist of pure spirit, yet God gave mankind dominion over all of his physical works (Ps. 8:4-6).
14. God also formed the first woman, Eve, who was taken from the side of Adam (Ge. 2:21,23). God then presented her to Adam as his lifelong companion and to be the mother of all their offspring (Ge.3:20).

The Rebellion of Satan

15. One angel of high rank, named Lucifer or Satan, rebelled against God through personal pride and arrogance, thus becoming the author and instigator of sin (1Ti.3:6; Is.14:12-14).
16. A great number of angels followed Satan in his sinful rebellion and are referred to in Scripture as evil spirits or demons (Lu.7:21, 8:2; Ac. 19:13). A far greater company of angels remain loyal to God and continue to worship and serve Him, and they serve as invisible ministers to men and women who are predestined to be the heirs of salvation (He.1:14).

The Fall of Man

17. Satan, in the form of a serpent, persuaded Eve through lies and sly deception to follow him in his rebellion against God (Ge. 3:1-5). Having partaken of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Eve cunningly tempted Adam to partake of it as well (Ge.3:6).
18. Through jealousy and out of concern for Eve, but in direct disobedience of God's decree, Adam fell into sin by partaking of the forbidden fruit – thus assuming for himself a false god-like state in accordance with Satan's lie as he co-opted an illicit knowledge of what is good and what is evil (Ge. 3:5).
19. Because a holy God cannot look favorably upon rebellious sin, yet was unwilling to destroy his beloved creation, Adam was sent away from God's presence where he eventually became alienated from his Creator (Ge.3:23).
20. The entire race of mankind became depraved though Adam's fall as Adam's sin nature was passed down through his offspring from generation to generation (Ro. 5:12).
21. Man remains in a hopelessly fallen state today and is incapable of justifying himself before a holy God who must righteously punish the sin that is instinctive to man's depraved human nature (Ro.3:23).

The Incarnation

22. God so loved mankind, which He had created, that He gave his own Son to suffer His wrath in their place (Jn.3:16).
23. The Son of God willingly came to earth in the form of a man child, Jesus, born to a human woman, Mary, who was a virgin having never known a man intimately (Mt.1:23).
24. Jesus' miraculous conception came about as a consequence of Mary being overshadowed by supernatural power exercised through the Holy Spirit – not through any kind of physical contact (Lu.1:35).

25. Jesus' birth, life, and death are in fulfillment of all Old Testament Scripture prophecies concerning Him thus uniquely identifying him as the long awaited Messiah or the Christ (Mt.5:17).
26. Jesus came to earth representing the fullness of the Godhead in human flesh bodily, thus fully revealing the heart and mind of God to fallen mankind through his deified humanity (Col. 2:9).
27. Jesus is superior to all angels, and He has authority over them who must serve and worship Him even as they do the Father (He.1:6).
28. The Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, is fully God as well as fully man as a consequence of his miraculous conception and natural birth – these two natures are melded into one soul in the God-Man and are forever inseparable (Jn. 1:1, 14, 18; He. 4:14; 13:8; Ro. 5:15).

Redemption of the Human Soul

29. Jesus was completely sinless, yet He voluntarily took upon Himself the sins of the entire world (1Jn. 2:2).
30. Jesus came to this earth to redeem mankind by dying a vicarious substitutionary death upon a Roman cross for the sins of mankind (Jn.19:17,18; 1Co. 15:3).
31. Jesus died on the cross and was buried in a previously unused borrowed tomb (Mt. 27:59,60).
32. Jesus bodily arose from the tomb as the first-fruits of those believers who's bodies sleep in death (1Co. 15:20).
33. Jesus ascended into Heaven where his blood was accepted as a propitiation for all sin by his Father (Ac. 1:9; 1Jn.2:2).
34. Jesus now sits upon the heavenly throne at his Father's right hand where He makes intercession for his own (Ro. 8:34).

The Church

35. Christ along with the Father sent the Holy Spirit into the world beginning on the day of Pentecost to call out a sanctified group of people for His name which is called the Church (Jn:15:26).
36. The sole head and cornerstone of the Church is Jesus Christ and his apostles have provided the foundation of Church doctrine for all time, which we have in the New Testament Scriptures (Ep. 4:15, 5:23; Col.1:18; Ep. 2:20).
37. The Church today must be understood in three aspects: the Invisible Church, which consists of all believers through time – past, present, and future; the Visible Church, which exclusively consists of true believers that are currently living; and the temporal church, which is a subordinate human organization purporting to emulate and represent the Visible Church through human agency (cf. *Comprehensively Reformed Christianity*, Book II, Chapter 11.3).
38. The Visible Church is a single elect body anchored in Christ, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or social background. Having become members one with the other through a spiritual rebirth, we are under a holy obligation to maintain unity of the true faith within bonds of peace – sincerely loving one another as fellow believers in Christ regardless of minor sectarian differences we may hold. (Ac. 2:42-47; Ro. 12:5; 1Co. 12:12-27; Ep. 1:20-23; 4:3-10; Col. 3:14-15).
39. God in his sovereign wisdom and for his divine purposes has set aside and gifted certain men of the Visible Church today to excel as evangelists to reach others for Christ, and gifted still others as pastors and teachers to guide and to build up believers in the faith – thus edifying the entire body of Christ. Special gifts were given to the Apostles and a few others in the early Church as a recognizable sign of Christ's deity and power which served to facilitate and verify the saving truth of the Gospel. These special gifts are rarely if ever needed or given to men today inasmuch as the New Testament record of the exercise of those gifts in the first century is fully sufficient to provide the needed proof of Christ's deity and power to save in today's world (Ep. 4:7-12; 1Co. 12:4-11; 2Co. 12:12).
40. In representing the Visible Church, a sound temporal church should provide a time and place of regular assembly for reverent collective worship and praise of God and his Christ through the effectual pronouncement of God's Word, worshipful congregational singing, and meaningful corporate prayer (He. 10:25; Jn. 4:24; Col. 3:16; Ep.6:18).
41. The temporal church should provide believers an opportunity of engaging in ritual baptism as an outward symbol and witness of their spiritual rebirth – not as a required initiation rite connected with temporal church membership – and provide for true Christian fellowship through participation in the Lord's Supper celebration (cf. Statements 55 and 56 below).
42. The temporal church through its elect members should act as a storehouse for God's Truth held inviolate within Holy Scripture, which is also to be used for sound instruction of its members, making disciples of men, and leading them to spiritual maturity and close accountability in loving obedience to Christ in their everyday lives (2Ti. 3:16; Jn. 14:15).
43. The temporal church should also present a unified steadfast witness of the Truth to the world as a bright light of hope in the midst of darkness and through diligent dissemination of the Gospel lead others to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the salvation He freely offers to all who will accept Him as their Savior and Lord (Mt. 24:14; Tit. 1:9).

Salvation

44. Salvation is received by a specific number referred to as the elect through a redeeming act of grace constituting a spiritual rebirth as the Holy Spirit is sent to indwell them (Jn. 3:5; 1Pe. 1:23).
45. The appropriation of God's grace by the elect is by means of a God-given faith in response to the Gospel message and is not attainable through human effort or human works of any kind (Ep. 2:8)
46. The object of redemptive faith is fully centered upon the person and works of Jesus Christ alone, and outside of the person of Jesus Christ there is no means of redemption possible (Jn. 3:36,14:6).
47. The indwelling Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, thus bringing forth the assurance of salvation (Ro. 8:16; Ga. 3:26; 1Jn. 5:13).
48. When a believer dies, his soul immediately stands before Christ where the redeemed will receive just rewards for the good

works done on Christ's behalf while in their bodies here on earth (2Co.5:8, 10;).

The Extent of the Atonement

49. Jesus' atoning death is not automatically applied to all mankind such that all men and women are ultimately going to be saved but only those God specifically predestined to receive it (Ro. 8:29,30).
50. The atonement of Christ is effective for salvation only of the elect – those who repent of their sins and accept Jesus Christ as their savior and Lord that their sins may be blotted out under the blood of Christ (Ac. 3:19; 13:48).
51. Jesus stands as a mediator on behalf of the elect at the throne of God pleading his blood for the eternal salvation of his own such that the elect cannot ever lose their salvation (1Ti. 2:5; 1Pe.1:18,19; Jn. 10:28).

Christian Purpose and Duty

52. It is the purpose and duty of the elect to live a life in accordance with the hope of eternal life that is within them, avoiding all sinful worldly pleasures both through participation and association that would in any way bring forth disrepute on the name of Jesus (Ro. 12:1,2; Tit. 2:12; 1Jn. 2:15; 2Co. 6:14).
53. The Gospel message must be disseminated by the elect throughout the world through direct personal communication and through written and electronic media to all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, or background such that none can fail to hear the good news of redemption (Mk.13:10; Ro. 10:13-15).

Christian Privilege

54. Every believer in Christ receives the wondrous privilege of going directly before God the Father to make his needs and petitions known through prayer while invoking the name of Jesus who directly intercedes before the Father on his behalf (Jn. 15:16; Ph. 4:6).
55. The tradition of baptism is a ritual practice by which a believer testifies of this conversion from death to life in the new birth received through his baptism in the Holy Spirit. The water of ritual baptism has no intrinsic holiness or power to provide salvation but only symbolizes the Holy Spirit who already indwells and permeates the believer (Mt.3:11).
56. The Lord's Supper is a ritual practice by which a believer remembers Christ's death on the cross, and the sincere hope of his return in the last days. Through partaking of the simple elements of bread and the juice of the grape the believer vicariously identifies himself with the body and blood of Christ. The elements have no intrinsic holiness or power in themselves and remain bread and juice throughout the ritual (1Co. 11:24-26).

Sanctification

57. The believer receives positional sanctification (state of holiness) in Christ the moment that he is saved such that he no longer habitually practices sin as a way of life but abhors the effect that sin has had on his past life (He. 10:10;).
58. There is now no condemnation remaining for those who are in Christ Jesus – who walk on earth in the power of the Spirit and no longer in the weakness of sinful flesh (Ro. 8:1).
59. Nevertheless because of the remains of the old sin nature that persists in the flesh, a believer can still fall into sin in moments of weakness (Ro. 7:18,19).
60. A believer's sin must be openly acknowledged and confessed before God; when we do, God is able and just to forgive our sins through the shed blood of Christ. Failure to confess our sins can lead to God's loving chastisement through adversity in order to lead us to repentance (1Jn.1:9,10).
61. The Holy Spirit uses God's Word in the Holy Bible to renew our minds such that our thoughts will increasingly dwell on God's purpose for our lives (Ro. 12:2; Tit.3:5).
62. A believer will continue to grow in grace as he is inwardly changed by the indwelling Holy Spirit over his lifetime such that he experiences a progression of sanctification that has a positive practical effect on his attitudes and lifestyle (2Pe.3:18).
63. Only when a believer finally stands before Christ and in resurrected immortal flesh sees Him as He is, will he experience a completed state of holiness (1Jn. 3:2).

Eschatology

The Coming Apostasy of the Faith

64. Due to growing widespread animosity against Jesus Christ by competing religions, and the decadence of the secular world that is rapidly making its way into today's churchianity, a time will come when the true faith is no longer held to be sacrosanct by the temporal church (Mt.7:15; 2Ti. 4:3,4).
65. A remnant of the elect will one day be forced out of the temporal churches to gather secretly in small home churches for worship to avoid persecution by civil as well as religious authorities (2Co. 6:14-18).

The Future Rule of the Antichrist

66. The successful establishment of a powerful worldwide government will come about in the last days, which will ultimately be ruled over by the antichrist who is Satan's man – the man of sin (2Th. 2:3, 7-12; Re.6:1,2).
67. The antichrist will consist of a political ruler who heads up a consortium of seven rulers, and the military might of ten godless nations. He will be closely supported and promoted by a highly charismatic religious false prophet (Re. 13:1, 17:11, 13:11).
68. An apocalyptic world war will break out during the brief reign of the antichrist that will devastate a great portion of the world's population through violence, starvation and disease (Re.6:3-8).

The Great Tribulation

69. A brief but very intense period of persecution and tribulation will take place during the chaotic aftermath of the antichrist's

failed reign – threatening through insane and indiscriminate violence to destroy every living person from the surface of the earth. Jews especially will be oppressed and persecuted during this time (Je. 30:7; Mt.24:21 Re.6:9-11).

70. An earthquake and a great catastrophic cosmic event appearing in the Heavens will bring the period of great tribulation to a close as the sign of Jesus' coming appears in the clouds of heaven – stunning the world's depraved population into inactivity as they seek refuge from the wrathful face of Christ (Mt. 24:29,30; Re. 1:7; 6:16).

The Rapture of the Church

71. Immediately following the tribulation period, God will seal 144,000 faithful Jews to live on earth through the trying times ahead (Mt.24:31; Re.1-8).
72. Christ will call down from Heaven to gather all of his true Church to meet with Him in the air where they will reside in safety during the great cataclysmic judgments that are soon to come upon the earth (Re. 7:9,10).
73. Those who have died in Christ will arise bodily from their graves to be instantaneously changed into immortal flesh at the moment of their rapid transport (rapture) into the heavens (1Th. 4:16).
74. A remnant church composed of living believers will likewise be instantaneously changed into immortal flesh in a mere moment and will also be transported off the earth to be with Christ (1Th. 4:17).

The Day of God's Wrath

75. Following the rapture of the Church, God will loose his fierce wrath upon a disbelieving world population through seven severe trumpet-judgments (Re. Chapters 8-11) and though seven bowls of his righteous indignation and wrath that will be poured out upon the earth by seven angels (Re. Chapter 16).

The Second Advent of Christ and The Battle of Armageddon

76. Because of the spirits of demons, the whole earth will be drawn together as one to fight against the authority of God in one final battle in a place called Har-Megeddon, a plateau located in the Jezreel valley of northern Israel (Re.16:16).
77. Jesus will only then physically return to judge the earth in what is commonly referred to as his second advent (Re. 19:11-13).
78. Jesus will lead the massive armies of heaven as He treads the fierce wine press of the wrath of God against all of his enemies (Re.19:14-16).
79. The satanic army will be slain by the Lord Himself and vultures will feast on their flesh (Re.19:21; Mt. 24:28).
80. Hell will be opened, and the antichrist and his false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire as its first occupants (Re. 19:20).

The Millennial Age

81. Christ will establish a thousand-year kingdom age on earth upon the ashes of mankind's failure (Re.20:4,6).
82. Satan will be incarcerated for a thousand years so that he can not tempt men during this age (Re. 20:2,3).
83. During the Millennium all of God's yet unfulfilled promises to Israel as a nation will be met through the previously sealed remnant that now inhabit their land (Is. 59:20; Ez. 34:25-31; Ro.11:26 etc.).
84. Peace and perfect conditions of health and prosperity will characterize the kingdom age as Jesus Christ rules on the throne of David (Lu.1:32, 33).
85. All the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and He will rule the nations of the earth with a rod of iron (Re. 11:15, 12:5)
86. Death will not yet have been conquered inasmuch as men on earth continue to exist in mortal flesh during the Millennium; men and women will continue to marry and bring forth offspring (cf. Statement **91** below).

The Final Judgment of Satan

87. At the close of the thousand years, Satan will be loosed for a short span of time to deceive the nations (Re. 20:7,8).
88. Jesus Christ will lead the armies of heaven in this final battle wherein Christ tramples all his enemies under his feet (Re. 19:11-21).
89. Satan and his demonic minions are totally defeated and will be thrown into the lake of fire (Re.20:10).

The Final Judgment of the Reprobate

90. All of the unredeemed dead (the reprobate) will be resurrected to stand before a great white throne upon which Jesus Christ sits as their judge. The books will be opened and the reprobate will be sentenced according to the evil perpetrated while living in the flesh. None of these being found in the book of life, all must spend eternity in Hell (Jn. 5:22; Re. 20:11-15).
91. Finally, death itself will be thrown into the Lake of Fire thus marking an end to mankind's persistent and pernicious enemy (Re. 20:14).

The Eternal State

92. As the Millennium ends, time as we presently experience it will also come to an end as the eternal state of all things begins (cf. *Comprehensively Reformed Christianity*, Book I, Chapter 3.1, Book III, page 659)
93. The old heavens and the old earth will melt with fervent heat and all traces of them will dissolve away (2Pe. 3:10, 12).
94. The eternal ages of an immortal mankind will begin with the creation of a new heaven and a new earth and with that earth will be a new Jerusalem wherein God and man will live together in righteous harmony forever (Is. 65:17; Re.21:1-5; 2Pe.3:13).