

EDUCATION AND OUR REFORMED WORLD AND LIFE VIEW

We believe the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God. Scripture is the very Word of God written as His special revelation to man. The Scripture's authority extends to all that it actually teaches and is sufficient for our instruction concerning how we as Christians are to relate to God and to our fellow man. God's Word takes precedence over any rival claims to knowledge.

In addition to His special revelation, we believe God has also revealed Himself through His general revelation in nature. God's special revelation in the Bible is compatible, in every respect, with His general revelation in nature. Human interpretations of general revelation, however, must submit to the authority of special revelation. Although significant insight into the created order can be gained by unbelievers, a true understanding of that created order is not possible without the light of the Bible, a heart committed to Christ, and the operation of the Holy Spirit. It is important that students be taught to recognize that which is consistent with what the Scriptures teach and that which is tainted by secular humanism.

The Scripture's primary message is redemption from sin through Jesus Christ. But all Scripture is God's Word and always true. When Scripture speaks to matters of history, science, ethics or anything else, it is true and authoritative and governs the thinking of Christians in these disciplines. Students need to understand that the Lordship of Christ is over all of life.

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe God the Father is the sovereign ruler over all that He created. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return with power and glory at the end of the age. We believe in the present and continuing ministry of sanctification as a work of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the believing Christian is cleansed and empowered for a life of holiness and service.

We believe in the fall of man and his consequent total moral depravity, resulting in his exceeding sinfulness and lost estate and necessitating his regeneration by the Holy Spirit. We believe salvation is altogether a work of divine grace. Those who repent of their sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior have been, predestinated, chosen in Christ before the world was formed in agreement with the merciful intent of God's will.

We believe God operates in a covenant relationship with man, promising to forever be the God of those who are truly converted. There is nothing that can separate a true believer from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. The covenant promises are extended to the children of believers. It is the responsibility of parents to teach their children that they have been set apart to live a life of growing faith and obedient service to their covenant God.

We believe in one resurrection of the saved and the lost: those who are saved to the resurrection of life and those who are lost to the resurrection of damnation.

We believe in the spiritual unity of all those who are believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, crossing denominational lines.

Our understanding of God's self-revelation is summarized in the Reformed confessions: the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, the Canons of Dort, and the Westminster Confession and Catechisms.