

DENVER REFORMED CHURCH: Confession of the Christian Faith and Sound Gospel Message

We are a Reformed covenant community who believe and confess the following as the Christian Faith and gospel:

- 1. We believe man's chief end is to glorify God by obeying Him and enjoying His abundant blessings forever.**
- 2. We believe there is but one true and living God, who is uncreated Spirit, the sole Possessor, Giver and Sustainer of all life, existing eternally as three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one in essence, equal in power and glory, personal, immutable, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, perfect in love, wrath, wisdom, holiness, goodness, justice and truth.**
- 3. We believe God foreordained whatever comes to pass in such a way that nothing comes to pass unless it was previously ordained by Him.**
- 4. We believe God made all things that exist from nothing, by the power of His word, in the space of six literal days, and all very good; and being their Creator and therefore rightful Owner, He exercises His sovereignty in the governance of every creature and all their actions, though in no way through such governance becoming the guilty author of sin or destroying the moral culpability of men and angels.**
- 5. We believe our first parents, though created perfect in righteousness, sinned against God; bringing to mankind the forfeiture of His abundant life blessings, the curses of Divine separation and enmity; as well as bondage to Satan, sin and death.**
- 6. We believe that sin, identified as mankind's desire to be God, manifested in rebellion against God's law, always finds its source or cause in the soul, the moral component of mankind, and never in his physical members.**
- 7. We believe God, out of nothing but His grace, determined from eternity past to deliver His people from sin, restoring to them also the pleasures of His abundant life blessings through the salvation found exclusively in Jesus Christ, the second member of the Trinity, the Father's eternal Son who became man, and continues to be fully God and man, two distinct natures, though existing forever as one person.**
- 8. We believe Jesus to be the Christ (Messiah, Anointed One), the fulfillment of the Scriptures, God's plan and promises, the Divine Husband with whom the redemptive covenants were made, the Divine Prophet-Priest-King through whom His people's salvation is secured.**
- 9. We believe Jesus Christ accomplished this salvation and confirmed His rightful place as Lord through His sacrificial death on the cross and miraculous resurrection on the third day, ascending after into heaven to the right hand of the Father until he shall come again and judge the world at the end of human history.**

10. We believe a repentant faith in Christ alone, as *Lord Before Savior*¹ is by God's grace alone (*sola Gratia*), all that is required if we are to gain - and have imputed, the perfect justification, forgiveness and righteousness found in Him (*sola Fide, sola Christos*), and is the guaranteed expression of all those persons God is calling to Himself for the purpose of His glory (*sola Gloria*) in salvation.
11. We believe this expression of faith is accepted by God through baptism – the effectual sign and seal of not only our justification, but also of receiving the blessed gift of the Holy Spirit, betrothal to Christ, and entrance in to the New Covenant community of the church.
12. We believe that perseverance in faith and faithful obedience to the entirety of God's law - as understood through its New Covenant administration in Christ, to not only be possible for every Christian - due to the indwelling Holy Spirit, but necessary as the means to avoiding apostasy and maintaining their marriage to Christ and justified state before God, both in this life and the coming judgment according to deeds.
13. We believe the visible church, comprised of baptized members, infant through adult, under the oversight of qualified elders, possessing the sound gospel, preaching the whole counsel of God, practicing disciplinary action against sin and observing the holy sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper to be the Body and Bride of Christ, the New Covenant Israel, the household of God, the kingdom of God on earth and gateway to heaven, outside of which it is impossible to be saved.
14. We believe in two holy sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Table, each made efficacious unto redemption by God's presence and grace when obediently administered by His church.
15. We believe God continues to make special provision for the children of His covenant people – most especially infants, graciously affording to those who do not refuse the covenant sign (baptism) or submission to Him, all the covenant blessings conferred therein.²
16. We believe the entire Protestant Bible, both Old and New Testaments to be the inspired, inerrant and fully authoritative words of God, whose content, when understood according to its given context, establishes instruction for godly living, wisdom unto salvation, and the singular gospel (or good news) message of *"Abundant Life in Jesus Christ if we submit to Him as Lord Before Savior in the relationship of Covenant through His Church"*.

¹ By this unique phrase we mean the following: there has always been a condition to God's (or Christ's) blessing as Savior - we must first be willing to submit to Him as Lord.

² We recognize that both paedobaptists and credobaptists are concerned to be faithful to Scripture and to the church's historic practice. As such, we maintain a neutral and inclusive stance, welcoming both practices, as families desire. Though the official position of the church is in agreement with the paedobaptist position, no one will be denied church membership or ostracized for practicing credobaptism. We insist on cooperative agreement, even in the midst of possible differences on this issue within our church body.