

CHARACTERISTICS OF REFORMED THEOLOGY

- **Confessions of Faith** - Reformed congregations often express what we believe by reciting statements of faith called Confessions. These Confessions may range from the Nicene Creed, written in 325 CE to modern day confessions.
- **Scripture** - Reformed churches emphasize the importance of scripture as God's revelation, the way God is made known to us, and the way that we come to understand our Christian faith.
- **Sin** - The Reformed faith views humans as imperfect creatures who cannot help but sin. Only God's grace working in us can help us to lift ourselves out of our sinful nature.
- **Trinity** - Reformed theology affirms God as triune, one God in three persons: creator, redeemer, and sustainer.
- **God** - The Reformed faith affirms God as creator of all things, involved in creation, sharing creation's joy and suffering.
- **Jesus** - Reformed theology affirms Jesus Christ, our redeemer, as both fully divine and fully human, God became flesh and lived among us, as God's saving work of Grace.
- **Holy Spirit** - The Reformed faith affirms the Holy Spirit as our sustainer, at work in our lives and in the world.

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- **Church / Christian Life** - The Reformed tradition affirms that the Christian life is a communal life. It is lived in fellowship with others as a community of disciples. Faith is not an individualistic endeavor.
- **Salvation** - Reformed theology recognizes salvation as God's gift of grace, not something that humans can accomplish through their own efforts.
- **Baptism** - The Reformed faith views Baptism as a sacrament through which one is incorporated into the church. It is a visible symbol of God's invisible grace
- **Communion** - The Reformed tradition views communion as a sacrament which serves to remind of us of our covenant with God through Jesus Christ. The bread and the wine symbolize Christ's body and blood given for us.
- **Reign of God** - Reformed theology recognizes that the eschatological (referring to end times) materials in scripture are symbolic and should not be interpreted literally. The Bible provides us with the knowledge that God's reign will be established and evil will be defeated but does not provide us with knowledge about when or how this will happen.