

There are certain basic beliefs that Reformed Christians hold with all Christians:

1. The Trinity

God has revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; God in Three persons (Triune God of Grace). Each person of the Trinity has a distinct role. This central doctrine is affirmed by the Church in the Apostle's Creed.

2. The Incarnation of Jesus Christ

Jesus was God in the flesh – fully God and fully human (John 1:1-18). This central doctrine is affirmed by the Church in the Nicene Creed.

There are certain basic beliefs that Reformed Christians share with all Protestant Christians:

3. Justification by Grace through Faith Alone

We are saved, not by anything we do, but simply by God's grace to us through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5; Eph. 2:1-10). The essence of grace is God's undeserved favor toward us. In spite of our rebellion away from Him, He has sought us out in love. He has not waited for us to clean ourselves up or to come seeking Him first, but has come calling us. This is the foundation to the Gospel (Luke 15; Ephesians 1&2).

4. Authority of Scripture

Scripture is the inspired written revelation of God, and therefore, it speaks as God's authoritative and infallible Word on matters of faith and life (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 2:21).

5. The Priesthood of all Believers

Everyone who is a believer in Jesus has been sanctified by the Holy Spirit and gifted for ministry. Everybody is a minister. The purpose of the ordained minister or pastor is to help others grow into the fullness of Jesus so they will be able to minister as well, whether to other believers or to their family, neighbors, coworkers etc (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Peter 2:4,9; Revelation 5:10).

There are certain beliefs that Reformed Christians emphasize, because we believe they best express the truth of Scripture:

6. The Sovereignty of God

Central to the Reformed tradition is our affirmation of the majesty, holiness, and providence of God – the conviction that every human being has every moment to do with the living God. God's glory is the ultimate priority in life (Isaiah 43:6-7; Rom. 16: 25-27).

God is the reigning King over His creation and nothing can ultimately thwart His purposes. He initiates everything including creation, our redemption and sanctification (Ps. 24; Isaiah 43:10-15; 45:5, 18-25). Jesus came to earth to initiate God's kingdom on earth and to reveal what life in God's kingdom looks like. He will return again to consummate his kingdom (Matthew 4:17; Ephesians 1:7-10; Revelation 1:12; 12:10; 15:3-4).

God uses human means to accomplish His purposes, but His means do not involve coercion. Humanity is still responsible for its decisions and actions. God's sovereignty and human freedom are equally taught and a paradox of Scripture.

7. Election

By His own initiative and without any consideration of our worthiness, God elects or chooses a people to be in covenant relationship with Him. We did not choose God, but He chose us. The purpose of election is to experience the favor of God as well as to reflect the character and purposes of God and to be a blessing to the world (Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:3-6; Ephesians 1: 3-6).

8. Covenant

God relates to humanity by a covenant of grace. A covenant was/is a binding promise or blood oath (oath made on penalty of death). The heart of God's covenant promise is that He will be our God and we will be His people. God made His covenant with Abraham, renewed it with the Israelites (Abraham's descendants), renewed it with King David, promised a renewed covenant through the Prophets, and finally renewed it for good in Jesus (Genesis 15; 17; Revelation 21: 1-5).

9. Sin of Idolatry

Every human being has been personally affected by the Fall and now experiences the effect of sin totally, i.e. sin has affected our minds, wills and emotions. The root of our sin is not so much our lack of faith as idolatry (we are self-centered as opposed to God-centered). It is this sin nature that Jesus now changes in every believer by his Holy Spirit. We have tended to emphasize this sin nature as opposed to the individual acts of sin, which flow out of our sinful hearts (Genesis 3; Mark 7:20-23; Romans 3:21-22).

10. Stewardship

Grace motivates us to live a life of gratitude and obedience. Everything we have, including our talent, health, relationships, material possessions etc, has been entrusted to us by God. We are to enjoy them and use them wisely to bring blessing to others and glory to God (Genesis 2:15; Matthew 25:14-30; James 1:16-18).