

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. MAKING KNOWN/NOT HIDING** (Ps.32:3,5; Prov.28:13; ee Acts 19:18; Rev.3:5)
- B. ACKNOWLEDGING/NOT DENYING** (Jn.1:20; 1Jn.1:8-10; 2:23; 4:2,3; see Rom.7:16; note: "Amen!")
- C. LOYALTY/TREACHERY** (Mt.16:16; 26:64(*1Tim.6:13*)/Mt.26:69f; see Acts 24:2f; 26:1; see Mt.10:32-39)
- D. CONFESSING SIN & PROFESSING FAITH** (Ps.32:5; 1Jn.1:9 yet also Mt.10:32; Rom.10:9,10; 1Jn.4:3; e.g., *Westminster Confession of Faith*)

II. CHARACTERISTICS

- A. PRIVATE, BUT ESPECIALLY PUBLIC** (Ps.32:1f&8f; 51:4f&13f; 105:1; see Lev.5:5; Mt.10:32; 1Tm.6:12,13; Rev.3:5)
- B. INDIVIDUAL, BUT ESPECIALLY CORPORATE** (Lev.16:21; 26:40; 1K8:33f; Neh9:2f; Dan9:4f; 1Tm.3:16)
- C. PUBLIC, CORPORATE WORSHIP** (prayer, sacraments; see 1Kngs.8:33f; Mt.1:5; Acts 2:38)
- D. VISIBLE CHURCH** (Mt.16:16-19; 1Cor.12:3ff; 1Tm.3:15,16)

III. ASPECTS

- A. AGENT: THE HOLY SPIRIT** (1Cor.12:3)
- B. CONTENT: THE WORD OF GOD AS BELIEVED** (Neh.9:3; Rom.10:9,10; 1Tm.3:16; see 2Tm.3:14-17; see creeds, confessions, catechisms; "confessionalism"; see Ezra 7:10; 1Cor.3:2; Heb.5:12f)
- C. INSTRUMENT: FROM HEART, WITH MOUTH** (Rom.10:9,10; Mt.12:34; Phil.2:11; see Ps.116:10=2Cor.4:13)
- D. MEANS: SACRAMENTS, PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP** (Mt.3:6; Jn.6:40,54; 1Kngs.8:33f; Dan.9:4; Jms.5:16; see Jms.5:16 with Mt.5:23,24; Eph.4:29f)

IV. CONTENT: TRUE CONFESSIONS (see 1Jn.2:22,23)

A. CONFESSING GOD

- 1. *holiness, glory; creation, providence...* (Is.6:3; Ps.19:1f; 96:1f; 136:1f)
- 2. *Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior* (Jn.9:22; Phil.2:11; 1Tm.3:16; Heb.3:1; 1Jn.2:23; 4:2f,15)
- 3. *Psalms of Praise* (all!; e.g., Ps.105:1f)

B. CONFESSING MAN

- 1. *creatureliness* (Gen.1:26f; 2:7f; Ps.8:4; Ps.100:3)
- 2. *sinfulness* (Lev.5:5; 16:21; 26:40; Is.6:1f,5f; 1Jn.1:7-9)
- 3. *includes repentance* (Num.5:7; 1Kngs.8:33; Ezra 10:11; Mk.1:5; Prov.28:13; 2Cor.9:13; 1Jn.1:9)
- 4. *aliens & strangers* (Heb.11:13; see 1Pt.2:11)
- 5. *Psalms of Repentance* (penitential; Ps.32:1f; 51:1f; see 25:18; 79:9; 85:2)

C. CONFESSING GOD: GRACIOUSNESS

- 1. *creation, providence... and redemption* (Ps.32:1f; 51:1f; see Ps.34:8 w/4,6,17,19; 78:12f; see 1Jn.1:9)
- 2. *Psalms of Thanksgiving* (e.g., 7:17; 9:1; 57:9; 100:4; 107:1,8,15,21,31; 116: 14,18, etc!)

V. THE BLESSINGS OF CONFESSION

- A. CONFESS THE TRUTH TO GOD, IN CHRIST, BY THE SPIRIT, ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES & BEFORE THE WORLD!** (Dn9:4f; Mt10:32; Rom10:4; 9,10; 1Cor12:3; Phil2:11; 1Tm3:16)
- B. CONFESS CHRIST & BE CONFESSED!** (Mt.10:32-39; 26:64ff; Heb.12:2)
- C. CONFESS YOUR SIN & BE FORGIVEN!** (Lev5:5f,10; 1K8:33,35; Ps32:5,1f(soon!); Prv.28:13; 1Jn1:9; 2:4; note:cup)
- D. CONFESS HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS & BE SAVED!** (Rom.10:4; 9,10; see Mt.10:32; note: bread)
- E. CONFESS HIS GLORY & BE BLESSED!** (Psalms!; see Rom.1:18-23; Heb.13:15, Lit., *confess*)
- F. HOLD FAST YOUR CONFESSION!** (Heb.4:14; 10:23 /Mt.10:22(32,33); 24:13 /Mt.16:16/26:69f /2Tm.2:12f)

The Vows of The Covenant of Church Membership

1. *We believe* the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only infallible rule for faith and life. ***Do you?***
2. *We believe* in the one living and true God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as revealed in the Scriptures. ***Do you?***
3. *We repent* of our sin; confess our guilt and helplessness as sinners against God; profess Jesus Christ, Son of God, as our Savior and Lord; and *dedicate* ourselves to His service. *We promise* to endeavor to forsake all sin, and to conform our life to His teaching and example. ***Do you?***
4. *We promise* to submit in the Lord to the teaching and government of this church as being based upon the Scriptures and described in substance in the Constitution of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. *We recognize* our responsibility to work with others in the church and *we promise* to support and encourage them in their service to the Lord. In case we should need correction in doctrine or life, *we promise* to respect the authority and discipline of the church. ***Do you?***
5. To the end that we may grow in the Christian life, *we promise* that we will diligently read the Bible, engage in private prayer, keep the Lord's Day, regularly attend the worship services, observe the appointed sacraments, and give to the Lord's work as He shall prosper us. ***Do you?***
6. *We purpose* to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness in all the relationships of life, faithfully to perform our whole duty as a true servant of Jesus Christ, and seek to win others to Him. ***Do you?***
7. *We make* this profession of faith and purpose in the presence of God, in humble reliance upon His grace, as we desire to give our account with joy at the last Great Day. ***Do you?***