

New Members Class
Harvest Reformed Presbyterian Church | Spring 2016

Week 1: The Human Condition

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?

- I. “Sinner” Is Logically Prior to “Sinning”, Luke 6:43-45
 - A. Corrupted Nature
 - B. Actual Transgressions
- II. God’s Evaluation Is Definitive, Psalm 11:4-7
 - A. God Rules Heaven
 - B. God Defines Sin
 - C. God Is the Final Arbiter of what Sin Is, 1 John 3:4
- III. God’s Evaluation Says You Don’t Measure Up, Romans 3:9-20
 - A. This Evaluation Is Already Known
 - B. This Evaluation Is Just
 - C. This Evaluation Elicits God’s Displeasure, Hebrews 10:38
- IV. God Offers Mercy, Hosea 14:1-4
 - A. God’s Mercy Has Compassion on Misery
 - B. God’s Mercy Is Sovereign
 - C. God’s Mercy Is the Basis of all Human Hope

Week 2: The Christian Faith

2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

- I. The Necessity of Faith, Romans 4:13-16
- II. The Object of Faith: Jesus Christ, Matthew 3:16-17
 - A. Jesus, the Son of God
 - B. The Son, the Second Person of the Trinity
 - C. Jesus, the Christ (Gk.)/Messiah (Heb.)/Anointed One (Eng.), Luke 4:16-21
 - D. Jesus, the Savior of Sinners, 1 Timothy 1:15
- III. The Act of Faith: Rolling Yourself onto Christ for Salvation, John 1:11-12
- IV. The Gospel: The Good News that God Saves Sinners through Christ, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Week 3: The Christian Life

3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

- I. A Resolution and a Promise, Romans 10:9-11
 - A. Made in the Heart
 - B. Made Before the Church, Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 1:2
 - 1. In Baptism, Matt. 28:19
 - 2. Verbally, Matt. 10:32
- II. A Reliance on the Spirit, Romans 8:3
- III. A Becoming Life, Ephesians 4:1-3

Week 4: Supporting the Church

4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

- I. Supporting the Church Is the Work of Christ, Matthew 16:18
- II. The Church is Our Mother, Galatians 4:26
- III. Nonetheless, Believers Support the Church by Participation, Revelation 3:12; Galatians 2:9

Week 5: Submitting to the Church

5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

- I. The Church has the Power of Government and Discipline from Christ
 - A. Scripture Presupposes It, Matthew 18:17
 - B. Scripture Gives Examples of It, Acts 16:4
 - C. Scripture Describes It
 - 1. In the Names of Rulers
 - a) Overseers (military rulers)
 - b) Presbyters (civil magistrates)
 - c) Rulers (hegemons)
 - 2. In Commanding Rulers to Rule, 1 Timothy 5:17
 - 3. In Commands to the Ruled: Obey, Submit, just as to the state (Rom. 13:1, 5) or as Christ did to His parents, Lk. 2:51
 - 4. In Outright Declarations, 1 Cor. 5:3-5, 13
- II. Church Discipline Is a Means of Grace

- A. “Discipline Is the Training that Makes Punishment Unnecessary”
- B. Discipline Is How Christ Makes You Mature, Ephesians 4:7-16

Week 6: Why “Reformed Presbyterian”?

- I. Reformed Theology: The Theology of the Reformation (Tomlinson Handout)
- II. Presbytery (Gk.)/Senate (Latin)/Elder Board (Eng.)
 - A. Colloquial Definition: Old Men in Charge
 - B. Formal Definition: “The government of the church by presbyteries, graded in a regular order and so arranged as to clearly demonstrate the unity of the visible church.”
 - C. Biblical Support
 - 1. Its OT Roots, Exodus 3:16, 18
 - 2. Its NT Flower, Ephesians 4:7-16 with Acts 15:1-16:4