

# “Why I Am A Reformed Presbyterian”

## Contours Of The Visible Church From A Pastoral Epistle

### 1 Timothy 4

As the Early Church expanded the apostles were busy preaching the Gospel, establishing churches, and encouraging/overseeing their “fellow workers” (i.e. Timothy; Ro. 16:21). The Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus) give us a unique glimpse of the Church of Jesus Christ *as it functions*: “the Church of the Living God, the pillar and buttress of truth” (3:15). Study this living model of the visible church to whom “Christ hath given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints in this life, to the end of the world...” (*Westminster Confession* 25.3).

I. Christ Jesus came to save \_\_\_\_\_ like me (1:15)

This ‘trustworthy’ statement describes our \_\_\_\_\_ condition and our \_\_\_\_\_ status in our union with Christ (Lu. 5:32). The church is for sinners committed to \_\_\_\_\_-likeness!

II. Christ Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ to God (2:5)

There are \_\_\_ other ‘\_\_\_\_\_’ that properly represent God to us or us to God.

III. The Church cherishes the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture (4:13)

Seek a church with an active reading, \_\_\_\_\_, and teaching ministry!

IV. Timothy was \_\_\_\_\_ through the hands of the \_\_\_\_\_ (4:14)

“Council of elders” translates PRESBUTEROI. \_\_\_\_\_ perform a vital function in \_\_\_\_\_ us toward practical service. “Counsel” with your “council” soon!

V. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ teaching are vital (6:3)

Humanity receives \_\_\_\_\_ guidance through the Word of God (Matt. 4:4) and its Biblical application. Study the teachings of Jesus, and strive to be \_\_\_\_\_.

VI. I have \_\_\_\_\_ my faith about eternal \_\_\_\_\_ before many witnesses (6:11-12)

Let the *Covenant Of Communicant Membership* be the first of many \_\_\_\_\_ (‘Confessions’) you make or adopt. Stand firmly in \_\_\_\_\_ of Eternal Life (Jn. 3:16).

VII. A \_\_\_\_\_ has been \_\_\_\_\_ to us (6:20)

The kingdom of God does not consist in temporary \_\_\_\_\_ of religion, but in guarding the lessons we have learned. The Church \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel!

**1. The godly vows we make shape our lives. What statements of belief and commitment have you made? Review the membership vows that define your relationship to Christ’s church.**

**2. Study and notate the RPCNA Constitution, which is full of carefully worded statements of Biblical truth. Note how these RP Church Standards are constantly rooted in the Scriptures.**