

Ottawa Reformed Church's

Statement of Faith Summary

- ABOUT THE BIBLE
 - Both Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God (II Tim. 3:16)
 - Without error in the original writings.
 - The complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men (Rev. 22:18-19)
 - The Divine and final authority for what we should believe and how we should live
 - The primary vehicle by which God dispenses His grace

- ABOUT GOD
 - Creator of all things
 - Infinitely perfect
 - He is present everywhere
 - God of love; yet demands justice
 - He is one God eternally in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit

- ABOUT JESUS CHRIST
 - Only begotten Son of God the Father (John 1:1)
 - Conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin
 - As God incarnate in human flesh, He was truly God and truly a man
 - He offered up Himself on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world
 - Physical resurrection from the grave
 - Ascended into heaven, where at the right hand of the Father, He is now our High Priest and Advocate
 - His literal coming again.

- ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT
 - Co-equal with the Father and the Son
 - Guarantees our inheritance in Christ (Eph. 1:13-14)
 - Indwells, guides, instructs, and empowers the believer for godly living and service
 - Produces fruit in us (Gal. 5:22-23)
 - Administers spiritual gifts for the good of the whole body (I Cor. 12, Ro. 12, Eph. 4)

- ABOUT MAN
 - Created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-28)
 - Created male and female for fellowship with Himself and to carry out the creation mandates—demonstrating the unique and exclusive relationship between one man and one woman within the covenant of marriage
 - Designed for everlasting
 - But rebelled against his Creator and became alienated from God

- As a consequence, we all enter this world with a predisposition to sin (Rom. 3:23, Ps. 51:5)
- We avoid death (Rom. 6:23) only by accepting God's free gift of acquittal made possible through the atoning death of Christ at Calvary

- ABOUT THE CHURCH
 - Composed of all who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
 - Only members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church
 - Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church; the members are His body (Col. 1:18)
 - Children of church members are called "children of the covenant." Their baptism is a sign and seal of this covenant relationship and of their membership in the Christian church

- ABOUT THE HOLY SACRAMENTS
 - We have two sacraments instituted by Christ in the new covenant (testament) - Baptism and Communion (Lord's Supper)
 - They are to be observed by the Church during the present age
 - They are a secondary means of grace, but not a means of salvation
 - Only those receiving Communion in faith receive grace (I Cor. 11:23-31)
 - The Reformed Church of America (RCA) does not practice closed communion. All adult members of the universal church of Jesus Christ who have appropriately prepared themselves are invited to join us in celebrating Holy Communion

- ABOUT THE FUTURE
 - Personal and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Bodily resurrection of the dead
 - Final judgment of everyone whomever lived
 - Everlasting blessedness and joy for those who believe on our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Eternal conscious punishment of the unbeliever

- CONFSSIONAL STANDARDS OF RCA
 - Belgic Confessions (1561)
 - Heidelberg, Catechism (1563)
 - Canons of Dort (1619)

Signature _____

Date: ____/____/____