

Essential Tenets of the Reformed Faith

We believe that the essential tenets of the Reformed faith, as expressed in the Confessions of our church, are authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and to do. What follows is a concise summary of essential tenets of our faith as taught in Scripture and summarized in the Confessions.

Essential Tenets:

1. Authority of Scripture – “Scripture alone”
2. God – Trinity and Attributes
3. Humanity – Creation and Fall
4. Jesus Christ – Person and Atoning Work
5. Salvation – by Grace Alone through Faith Alone because of Christ Alone
6. The Church
7. The Sacraments

1. Authority of Scripture – “Scripture Alone”

We affirm that the Scriptures, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, are given by the inspiration of God to be the final rule of faith and life. (6.002) All things necessary for God’s glory, human salvation, faith, and life are either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture. (6.006) The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written. (9.27) The Holy Spirit illumines our minds to understand the Scriptures. (6.006) “Scripture alone” is our ultimate authority (“sola scriptura”).

We deny any doctrine which asserts that there can be revelations from the Holy Spirit that contradict or supersede Scripture. We deny any doctrine which elevates the authority of human scholarship or reason, or the authority of church councils, above the authority of Scripture. We deny any doctrine which seeks to follow a “Jesus Christ” apart from the person, work and will of Jesus Christ revealed in Scripture.

Scripture: Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Luke 24:44-45

Confessions: The Westminster Confession (6.002 - 6.010), The Scots Confession (3.18-3.20), The Second Helvetic Confession (5.001-5.002, 5.010, 5.013, 5.080), The Theological Declaration of Barmen (8.04), The Confession of 1967 (9.27)

2. God – Trinity and Attributes

We affirm that there is only one living and true God, whom alone we must serve, worship, and trust. (3.01, 6.011) God is infinite in being and perfection, a spirit who is invisible, immutable, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, all-wise, completely holy, completely free, completely loving. (6.011) He works all things in accordance with his unchangeable and righteous will, for his own glory. (6.011) God is gracious, merciful and patient. He forgives sin and rewards those who diligently seek him. (6.011) He is just and terrible in his judgments, hating all sin, and will by no means clear the guilty. (6.011) God has all life, glory, and blessedness in and of himself and is alone all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which he has made. (6.012) He is the creator of all things and has sovereign dominion over them. (6.012) Yet God is not the author of sin and does no violence to the will of the creatures. (6.014) We believe in the trinity, that there is one God who has eternally existed in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and

God the Holy Spirit, who are the same in substance, equal in power and glory. (1.1-1.3, 6.013, 7.006)

We deny any doctrine that denies God's triune nature or refuses to confess the trinity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We deny the deistic notion that God created the cosmos, but is no longer personally involved in its operation or unfolding.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 45:5, Genesis 1:1, Revelation 4:11, Matthew 28:19, John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-20

Confessions: The Nicene Creed (1.1-1.3), The Westminster Confession (6.011-6.014), The Scots Confession (3.01, 3.18), The Second Helvetic Confession (5.015-5.019), The Shorter Catechism (7.004-7.006), The Larger Catechism (7.116-7.121)

3. Humanity – Creation and Fall

We affirm that God created humanity, male and female, in his own image and likeness, in true righteousness and holiness, so that humans might rightly know God their Creator, love him, and live with him in eternal blessedness. (3.02, 4.006, 7.010) God gave humanity free will and dominion over the creatures. (3.02, 7.010) Because of the disobedience of our first parents, they fell from the state in which they were created (7.013) and brought sin and death upon themselves and upon all who descended from Adam (7.132). The fall brought all humanity into a state of sin and misery. (7.017) Human nature became corrupted so that we are altogether unable to do good and wholly inclined to evil. (4.008, 6.034) Every aspect of our humanity—our personality, intellect, emotions, will, motives—is distorted by sin. (6.032 - 6.035) As a result, human beings are in bondage to sin and subject to God's holy and righteous judgment. (7.019, 7.137 - 7.139) Without God's intervening grace and salvation, all of humanity is lost and condemned. (4.010, 9.13)

We deny the assertion that human nature is basically good. We deny the assertion that human nature is redeemable through good efforts, discipline, or anything else apart from Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 5:18-19, Psalm 51:5, Psalm 143:2

Confessions: *The Westminster Confession* (6.022-6.023, 6.031-6.036), *The Scots Confession* (3.02-3.03), *The Heidelberg Catechism* (4.006-4.008), *The Second Helvetic Confession* 5.036-5.042). *The Shorter Catechism* (7.010-7.019), *The Larger Catechism* (7.127-7.139)

4. Jesus Christ – Person and Atoning Work

We affirm that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly human. (1.2, 3.06, 6.044) He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary (2.2) and was without sin. (6.044) Jesus lived a sinless life of perfect righteousness and obedience to God—teaching, performing miracles, ministering as a servant, and declaring that the kingdom of God is at hand. Jesus willingly sacrificed himself, dying on the cross as our substitute and thereby making atonement for our sin. (6.047, 3.09) His death provided expiation of our sin (covering, putting away, or rubbing out of sin) and propitiation (covering, putting away, or rubbing out of sin and pacifying the wrath of God against us thereby). (6.162, 3.09, 4.010, 5.105, 5.076) In the atonement, Christ took upon himself and bore the sins of the world, and his perfect righteousness is imputed to all who repent of sin and put their trust in him (5.108, 4.060, 6.081-6.086). Jesus' same physical body was resurrected from the dead and Jesus ascended into heaven. (6.046, 3.11) He will come again to earth and will judge all of humanity, the living and the dead. (6.046, 2.2) Salvation is through Jesus Christ alone. (5.077)

We deny any doctrine that discounts or discredits as untrue any portion of the New Testament record concerning Jesus. We deny any doctrine which asserts that Christ's atoning work is universally applied to all, so that all persons are saved. We deny any doctrine which asserts that there is salvation by any means other than through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Romans 3:21-26, Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 2:1-2, 1 John 4:8-10, Luke 1:31-35, John 14:6, Hebrews 1:1-3, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:19-21, Romans 5:18-19, 1 John 4:2-3, Hebrews 9:11-12, 1 Peter 3:18, Matthew 2:21, Ephesians 1:19-23

Confessions: The Westminster Confession (6.043-6.050), The Apostles Creed (2.2), The Scots Confession (3.06, 3.09-3.11), The Nicene Creed (1.1-1.3), The Second Helvetic Confession (5.077)

5. Salvation – by Grace Alone through Faith Alone because of Christ Alone

We affirm that in the gospel, God declares his love for the world and reveals fully and clearly the only way of salvation. (6.056) He promises eternal life to all who truly repent and believe in Christ and he invites and commands all to embrace the offered mercy. (6.056) The Holy Spirit regenerates people by his grace, convicts them of sin, moves them to repentance, and persuades and enables them to embrace Jesus Christ by faith. (6.053) Justification is an act of God's free grace in which he pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in his sight only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to us and received by faith alone. (7.033) Justification does not come through any of our works. (5.109) We cannot by our best works merit pardon for sin or eternal life. (6.091) Even our best works in this life are all imperfect and defiled with sin. (4.062)

The Holy Spirit unites all believers to Christ and dwells in them as their Comforter and Sanctifier. (6.053) Sanctification is the work of God's free grace whereby we are renewed in the whole person after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness. (7.035) In justification, sin is pardoned; in sanctification, it is subdued. (7.187) As soon as the Holy Spirit takes possession of the heart of any person, there begins a continual battle between the flesh and the Spirit in God's children, who fight against sin. (3.13) In time, God's people are redeemed, called, justified, sanctified and glorified. (6.043)

Scripture: Romans 3:19-23, Romans 5:1, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:16, Acts 4:12, Hebrews 5:8-9, Romans 12:2, Philippians 2:14-16

Confessions: The Westminster Confession (6.043, 6.053, 6.055-6.056, 6.091), The Scots Confession (3.12-3.13), The Heidelberg Catechism (4.062), The Second Helvetic Confession (5.109), The Shorter Catechism (7.033-7.036), The Larger Catechism (7.187)

6. The Church

We affirm that the catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the head. (6.140) The visible Church consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion, together with their children. (6.141) By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, all believers, being vitally united to Christ who is the Head, are thus united to one another in the Church, which is his body. (6.054) The Church is the temple of the living God, the bride of Christ, and the body of Christ. (5.130) The true church is distinguished by three marks: the true preaching of the Word of God, the right administration of the sacraments of Christ, and church discipline uprightly administered, as God's Word prescribes. (3.18) To the visible Church, Christ has given the ministry and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints. (6.142) Since there is no other way of salvation than that revealed in the gospel, Christ has commissioned his

Church to go into all the world and to make disciples of all nations. (6.058) All believers are, therefore to contribute by their prayers, gifts, and personal efforts to the extension of the Kingdom of Christ throughout the whole earth. (6.058)

Scripture: Ephesians 1:4-7, Ephesians 1:11-12, John 15:5,8,16, Ephesians 2:10, 1 Peter 2:9-12, Galatians 3:28, Titus 2:14, Romans 12:1, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Psalm 82:3-4, 2 Peter 3:10-13, Matthew 25:34-40, Luke 10:36-37

Confessions: The Westminster Confession (6.053-6.054, 6.058, 6.140-6.142), The Scots Confession (3.18), The Second Helvetic Confession (5.130)

7. The Sacraments

We affirm that sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace immediately instituted by God to represent Christ and his benefits. (6.149) The sacraments of the New Testament are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (7.093)

Baptism is a sacrament in which the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is a sign and seal of our ingrafting into Christ, of regeneration, of remission of sins, and of our giving up to God, through Jesus Christ, to walk in newness of life. (7.094, 6.154) Infants are also by baptism, as a sign of the covenant, to be incorporated into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers. This was done in the Old Covenant by circumcision. In the New Covenant, baptism has been instituted to take its place. (4.074)

Our Lord Jesus, on the night on which he was betrayed, instituted the sacrament of his body and blood called the Lord's Supper to be observed in his Church to the end of the world for the perpetual remembrance of the sacrifice of himself in his death, the sealing of all benefits of that to true believers, their spiritual nourishment and growth in him, their further engagement in and to all duties which they owe to him, and to be a bond and pledge of their communion with him, and with each other, as members of his mystical body. (6.161) Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements of bread and wine in this sacrament do then also inwardly by faith, really and indeed, yet not carnally and corporally, but spiritually, receive and feed upon Christ crucified, really but spiritually present to the faith of believers as the elements themselves are to their outward senses. (6.167)

The sacraments are not merely symbols. (3.21) Instead, there is a spiritual relation, or sacramental union, between the sign and the thing signified. (6.150). The sacraments were instituted by God not only to make a visible distinction between his people and those who were without the Covenant, but also to seal in the hearts of his children the assurance of his promise and of the most blessed union and fellowship which the chosen have with their Head, Jesus Christ. (3.21) Soli Deo gloria.

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 6:3-4, 1 Corinthians 12:13, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, 1 Corinthians 10:16

Confessions: The Scots Confession (3.21), The Heidelberg Catechism (4.074), The Westminster Confession (6.149-6.150, 6.154, 6.161, 6.167), The Shorter Catechism (7.093-7.094)

Scripture references cited: All quotations are from NIV unless otherwise specified.

1. Authority of Scripture – “Scripture alone”

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work

Luke 24:44-45 44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

2. God – Trinity and Attributes

Deuteronomy 6:4 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Isaiah 45:5 5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God...

Genesis 1:1 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

Revelation 4:11 11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Matthew 28:19 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

John 1:1-3 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Colossians 1:15-20 15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

3. Humanity – Creation and Fall

Genesis 1:26-27 26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Romans 5:18-19 18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Psalms 51:5 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Psalms 143:2 2 Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you.

4. Jesus Christ – Person and Atoning Work

Romans 3:21-26 21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (NASB)

Hebrews 2:17 17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (NASB)

1 John 2:1-2 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. (NASB)

1 John 4:8-10 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (NASB)

Luke 1:31-35 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

John 14:6 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
 Hebrews 1:1-3 1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

2 Corinthians 5:19-21 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God

Romans 5:18-19 18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

1 John 4:2-3 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

Hebrews 9:11-12 11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

1 Peter 3:18 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

Matthew 2:21 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Ephesians 1:19-23 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

5. Salvation – by Grace Alone through Faith Alone because of Christ Alone

Romans 3:19-23 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. 21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 5:1 1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Galatians 2:16 16 know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Ephesians 2:8-9 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

John 3:16 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Acts 4:12 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Hebrews 5:8-9 8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

Romans 12:2 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will

Philippians 2:14-16 14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life...

6. The Church

Ephesians 1:4-7 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Ephesians 1:11-12 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory

John 15:5, 8, 16 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing...8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples....16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you

Ephesians 2:10 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do

1 Peter 2:9-12 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Galatians 3:28 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Titus 2:14 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Romans 12:1 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Matthew 28:18-20 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 1:8 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Psalms 82:3-4 3 Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

2 Peter 3:10-13 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Matthew 25:34-40 34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Luke 10:36-37 36 “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” 37 The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

7. The Sacraments

Matthew 28:18-20 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Romans 6:3-4 3 Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life

1 Corinthians 12:13 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 10:16 16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

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