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Statement of Faith

My beliefs and perspective may be thought of as conforming to the principles of classic, orthodox, Reformed theology. Reformed theology is the crucial foundation of the Presbyterian church, and as Charles Spurgeon noted, "Reformed theology is just another name for the theology of the Bible." Some of the key principles of my faith include the following:

- I believe in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Though three distinct persons, God is one in essence and in spirit. God exists for God's own purposes and created all things for God's good pleasure. God is transcendent and majestic, having spoken worlds into existence with a word; yet God is also immanent and personal, caring for God's people in every detail of our lives. Through God's divine decrees, God sovereignly superintends the course of history, acting to carry out God's intent, conceived before the foundations of the earth. God is infinite and eternal, omniscient and omnipotent. God's holiness makes God wrathful toward sin, but God is also loving to His people. God binds Godself in covenant to us and is ever faithful to God's covenant promises. God is a just judge to all and merciful in saving many. There is but one true and living God: the Creator God; the God of the Bible; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- I believe that Jesus the Christ, God's only Son, is the incarnate Word of God, fully God and fully man. In His humiliation, He gave up the prerogatives of heaven, came to earth through virgin birth, and lived a sinless life, though tempted as any man. Jesus

performed miracles, healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and even raised the dead.

Though innocent of any guilt, He suffered and died on the cross, in perfect obedience to God's will. In His exaltation, Jesus rose from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and will come again in power and glory to judge and rule overall. Jesus now sits at the right hand of God, and as our High Priest intercedes for us with God.

- I believe that I was created in the image of God, with all the dignity and freedom that God endowed. I am a sinner, fallen through Adam and sinful by nature, and undeserving of any good on my own merit. Through God's merciful election, Jesus' righteous life and vicarious atonement on the cross, and the regeneration of the Holy Spirit, I have been born again as a new creation, saved by grace alone through faith alone. I have been justified, declared to have the righteousness of Christ, though I am a sinner. I have been adopted, accepted as a child of God, though I was an enemy of God. I am being sanctified, shaped more and more into the image of Christ. I will be glorified, given a new body and sinless existence, fitted for eternal life with Christ, my Lord and Savior.
- I believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, given to us as revelation and truth, authoritative and sufficient as our guide to faith and life, through the witness of the Holy Spirit working within our hearts. I believe in the authority of Scripture – the Word of God which governs life and faith. I believe that God gives us words of life through Scripture and teaches us God's will for our lives and for humanity. I believe that through Scripture (Old and New Testaments), we are taught how to put our faith in practice. The Word of God is living, and we are to "hide it" in our hearts, "rejoice in following" and "meditate on" the Lord's precepts and statutes. (Psalm 119:11,14-15) I believe Scripture interprets Scripture and when certain areas are unclear, we ought

to seek further understanding within God's Word through the help of the Holy Spirit.

- I believe that the church is the Bride and Body of Christ, instituted by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work on earth: loving, worshipping, serving, and making disciples of every tribe and tongue. It is the duty of the true church to properly preach the whole counsel of God, to rightly administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to exercise discipline over the flock so that none are lost.
- The Church, the mystical body of Christ, has chosen to be connected with God in and through certain acts which were instituted by Jesus himself. These we call our sacraments. These sacraments have many levels of depth. They are as familiar as a shared meal, and at the same time they are so deep that we can no more understand their true nature than we can understand fully the nature of the God who gave them to us, and who communes with us through them. Through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper we proclaim and invite others to receive God's grace and forgiveness.