

Essential tenets of a new wineskin for the Reformed faith

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God” (Rev 19:1).

This God whom we worship is a compassionate and majestic God, who lovingly desires to reveal Himself, and has done so generally through creation; specifically through the Holy Scriptures; and

finally, in the living Word who became flesh, Jesus Christ.

*“By His grace, we are born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3).*

1. The Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The Holy Spirit spoke through its authors and witnesses to us today that it is indeed, and in truth, the very Word of God.
2. In the beginning, the sovereign God created all things good. Through the disobedience of those who were made in the image of God, the whole of creation fell into the darkness of sin and rebellion. God initiated His plan of redemption that culminated in the historic crucifixion, resurrection and exaltation of Jesus the Messiah. The Redeemed are called to love God and neighbor, living out the ethical and moral imperatives revealed in Holy Scripture as disciples of Christ.
3. The LORD our God, has revealed Himself to us as three persons in one Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that each Person is engaged in all that God has done, does and will yet do. The LORD our God is “the One who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”
4. We believe in God the Father; who created all things in, through and for His Son. The Father adopts as children all who are drawn by the Holy Spirit to believe in His Son, giving to them all the riches of His glorious Kingdom. The heart of our Father is poured out in eternal redemption through Jesus, and the ongoing discipline that shapes His children into His image.
5. Jesus Christ is the living Word and eternal Son of the Father. He was incarnated in the womb of the virgin Mary. Two natures co-exist in Him so that He is fully God and fully human. He lived a sinless life; healed the sick; raised the dead; drove out demons;

preached the gospel to the poor; and died as our substitute on the cross. He rose bodily from the dead, ascended to the Father, and remains our faithful Mediator and High Priest. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Him. He is the only Head of the Church, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

6. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Jesus and to apply His saving work to our lives. He convicts of sin, seals salvation, comforts hearts, and makes Christ real to us. Indwelling our hearts, He sanctifies us for lives of holiness and empowers us for ministry in the Church and mission to the world. By the Spirit, we cry “Abba” to God who has adopted us as His children.

7. From the beginning, God has chosen and called a people, who are the true Church. After the resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit formed the Body of Christ. We are all baptized in one Spirit into this body, which finds expression in local congregations where the Gospel is preached in truth, sacraments are rightly administered and compassionate, godly discipline is exercised. The Church is a connectional and confessional community in which theological, ethical and moral accountability is maintained.

8. God gives the Church powers, gifts and talents to make disciples of all nations. He calls all believers to be ministers and witnesses to His grace. The Church is to equip all believers so that they may be presented mature in Christ; able, ready and willing to participate in the task of making disciples. It is the task of the church to identify, develop, equip and release people into a variety of ministries.

9. In the fullness of time, Jesus Christ will leave the Father’s side to return in glory. He will liberate creation from its bondage to corruption, judge the living and the dead, and establish His everlasting Kingdom. *“Even so, come Lord Jesus! Hallelujah! Amen.”*