

PROFESSION OF FAITH FOR CHILDREN

Christ Reformed Church, Anaheim

Introduction:

In the Reformed tradition, professions of faith by covenant children provide a wonderful opportunity to witness God's faithfulness to the body of Christ, the Church. In the profession of faith, our congregation sees children being united to the visible church of our great covenant keeping God. The Consistory of Christ Reformed Church Anaheim (CRef) seeks to provide guidelines to assist parents and children in their preparation for making this profession.

Covenant children will be expected to:

- 1) Articulate the Gospel message and differentiate the Gospel from the Law.
- 2) Memorize and have a basic understanding of the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the books of the bible.
- 3) Memorize and have a basic understanding of key Heidelberg Catechism questions and answers: Q&A 1, 2, 21, 26, 27, 28, 60, 69, 75, 86, 116.
- 4) Memorize and have a basic understanding of the following key Bible verses:
Psalm 119:105, John 3:16 and 10:28, Romans 3:23, 6:23 and 8:28, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 4:6, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:19-21 and 1 John 1:8-9.
- 5) Memorize and have a basic understanding of the elements of the acrostic TULIP.

The Steps for Profession of Faith for Your Children:

- 1) Parents, obtain a copy of the Profession of Faith Introduction and Checklist ASAP.
- 2) Parents, help kids begin studying and working on the checklist ASAP.
- 3) Parents, notify the Consistory of intention for your kids to make profession of faith.
- 4) Kids attend Pastor Brad's Youth Profession of Faith Class (in the Spring).
- 5) Kids attend Pastor Kim's New Member's Class (in the Fall).
- 6) Kids sign up for a Consistory interview.
- 7) Kids have their Checklist completed by this time.
- 8) Kids attend their scheduled Consistory interview.
- 9) Public profession of faith is made (Jan-March)!

FAQs:

- 1) Will my child have to memorize the items and recite them perfectly?

No. It is hoped that they will make a sincere effort but minor errors will not count against them. The important thing is that the child has a basic understanding of the concepts.

- 2) What if my child is not good at memorizing?

It is hoped that all covenant children will attempt to memorize these items. Consistory knows that certain individuals struggle with memorization, but a basic understanding of the concepts is anticipated and is aided by the effort to memorize even if the result is not perfection.

PROFESSION OF FAITH CHECKLIST

Name: _____

Item	Elder Signature	Date
Apostle's Creed		
The Lord's Prayer		
Ten Commandments		
Books of OT		
Books of NT		
HC1		
HC2		
HC21		
HC26		
HC27		
HC28		
HC60		
HC69		
HC75		
HC86		
HC116		
Psalms 119:105		
John 3:16		
John 10:28		
Romans 3:23		
Romans 6:23		
Romans 8:28		
Ephesians 2:8-9		
Philippians 4:6		
2 Timothy 3:16		
2 Peter 1:19-21		
1 John 1:8-9		
T		
U		
L		
I		
P		

THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE

Reformed theology emphasizes the doctrines of grace, best known by the acronym TULIP, though this does not correspond to the best possible names for the five doctrines.

T stands for total depravity. This does not mean that all persons are as bad as they could possibly be. It means rather that all human beings are affected by sin in every area of thought and conduct so that nothing that comes out of anyone apart from the regenerating grace of God can please God. As far as our relationships to God are concerned, we are all so ruined by sin that no one can properly understand either God or God's ways. Nor do we seek God, unless He is first at work within us to lead us to do so.

U stands for unconditional election. An emphasis on election bothers many people, but the problem they feel is not actually with election; it is with depravity. If sinners are as helpless in their depravity as the Bible says they are, unable to know and unwilling to seek God, then the only way they could possibly be saved is for God to take the initiative to change and save them. This is what election means. It is God choosing to save those who, apart from His sovereign choice and subsequent action, certainly would perish.

L stands for limited atonement. The name is potentially misleading, for it seems to suggest that reformed people want somehow to restrict the value of Christ's death. This is not the case. The value of Jesus' death is infinite. The question rather is what is the purpose of Christ's death, and what He accomplished in it. Did Christ intend to make salvation no more than possible? Or did He actually save those for whom He died? Reformed theology stresses that Jesus actually atoned for the sins of those the Father had chosen. He actually propitiated the wrath of God toward His people by taking their judgment upon Himself, actually redeemed them, and actually reconciled those specific persons to God. A better name for "limited" atonement would be "particular" or "specific" redemption.

I stands for irresistible grace. Left to ourselves we resist the grace of God. But when God works in our hearts, regenerating us and creating a renewed will within, then what was undesirable before becomes highly desirable, and we run to Jesus just as previously we ran away from Him. Fallen sinners do resist God's grace, but His regenerating grace is effectual. It overcomes sin and accomplishes God's purpose.

P stands for perseverance of the saints. A better name might be "the perseverance of God with the saints," but both ideas are actually involved. God perseveres with us, keeping us from falling away, as we would certainly do if He were not with us. But because He perseveres we also persevere. In fact, perseverance is the ultimate proof of election. We persevere because God preserves us from full and final falling away from Him.