



Six Central Beliefs of the Reformed Tradition

1. Sovereignty of God

- a. There is no part of life that is separate from God.
- b. Every human being at every moment has to do with the living God.
- c. Human life is rooted in the will and intention of God.
- d. The Glory of God and God's purposes in the world are more important than the salvation of one's own soul.

2. The Authority of Scripture

- a. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the only rule of faith and practice.
- b. The Bible is to be interpreted in light of its witness to God's work of reconciliation in Christ.

3. The Lordship of Jesus Christ

- a. Christ alone is deserving of our allegiance and devotion.
- b. The presence of God in Jesus Christ makes more sense out of life, and gives more meaning to life than any other revelation.

4. Justification by Faith

- a. We are put right with God by grace through faith alone and not by anything we are or do.

5. The Priesthood of All Believers

- a. All persons have equal access to God through Jesus Christ.
- b. No priest (minister) can answer for any human being.
- c. Believers have a right and responsibility to answer for themselves and for their neighbors before God.
- d. There is no qualitative distinction between clergy and lay, sacred and secular, Sunday Christianity and work-week life.

6. The Fellowship of the Church

- a. Christianity is corporate as well as personal (i.e., you can't be a Christian by yourself, for as Basil the Great discovered in the 300's AD, "...community life [is] essential, for one who lives alone has no one to serve..."¹).
- b. Love of neighbor is the truest test of orthodoxy and doctrine.

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### **The Reformed Motto**

“Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda” meaning,  
“The Church reformed and always reforming.” Or,  
“The Church reformed and always to be reformed.”

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<sup>1</sup> Paraphrase of Basil's thoughts from Justo Gonzalez, *"The Story of Christianity"* pg 183.