

Claiming the Faith

Lesson #20

Who is the Church?

Resources Needed

The Reformed Tradition
Book of Order Overview

0:00 Welcoming Prayer: from John Calvin's *Catechism of the Church in Geneva*

My good God, Father, and Savior, grant me aid by your Holy Spirit to now work fruitfully in my vocation, which is from you, all in order to love you and the people around me rather than for my own gain and glory. Give me wisdom, judgment and prudence, and freedom from my besetting sins. Bring me under the rule of true humility. Let me accept with patience whatever amount of fruitfulness or difficulty in my work that you give me this day. And in all I do, help me to rest always in my Lord Jesus Christ and in his grace alone for my salvation and life Hear me, merciful Father, by our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

0:05 Key Concepts

Sola Gratia
Sola Fide
Sola Scriptura

0:10 Key Scriptures

1 Corinthians 14: 39-40

39 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

0:15 Exposition

0:30 Discussion and Reflection

1. What are some aspects of the Reformed tradition you find most interesting? What are some aspects you question?
2. The Book of Order is "Part II" of our denomination's constitution. Why do you think that is the case, if it is the book with all the rules?
3. How would you describe the Reformed Tradition to a friend from another faith background?

0:45 Concluding Remarks

Claiming the Faith

Throughout this year of study, you've become more and more aware of the traditions of Reformed Christianity, as expressed in the PC(USA), particularly at Tinkling Spring. You may have friends who express their faith in different ways, attending churches of different traditions. One important thing to remember about our tradition is that we do not judge other's expression of their faith. Rather, we acknowledge that we are unable to know the mind of God in such a way that would allow us to judge the best expression of faith. What we also acknowledge, however, is that we are a tradition steeped in biblical fidelity and bound to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Reformed Tradition is our way of expressing our faith. It is important to understand what sets this tradition apart from others and how we function as a body.

0:50 Sending Prayer: from John Calvin's *Catechism of the Church in Geneva*

Lord God, I give you thanks for all the benefits and gifts you constantly shower on me. Thank you for sustaining my physical life through food and shelter; for giving me new life through the gospel; and for the certainty of the best and perfect life, which is yet to come. In light of all these blessings, I now ask that you would not allow my affections to be tangled in inordinate desires for the things of this world, but let me always set my heart on things above, where Christ, who is my life, is seated at your right hand. Hear me, merciful Father, by our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Notes