

Reformed Christian Worldview

3 Points of a Reformed Christian Worldview

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. Restoration

Four Foundational Relationships in the Created Order

1. The Triune God created man for relationship with him
2. God created man in His image.
3. God created man to work with others.
4. God created man to have dominion over the creation (stewardship) by doing the things God did in Creation – making, filling, ordering, etc.

Result of the Fall

- ◆ Man's relationship with God is broken
- ◆ Man's self-conception as the image of God is broken
- ◆ Man's relationship with others is broken
- ◆ Man's relationship to the created order is broken

Restoration

- ◆ Man's relationship with God is broken, but can be restored
- ◆ Man's self-conception is broken, but he can be restored to the image of God
- ◆ Man's relationship with others is broken, but it can be restored
- ◆ Man's stewardship in the creation is broken, but it can be restored

Restoration to God

- ◆ Sinners are restored in their Relationship to God by Redemption
- ◆ Redemption is Applied to Sinners by Repentance and Faith
- ◆ Restored to undertake Persevering Works
- ◆ Complete Restoration is future
- ◆ Counterfeit faith is present in the Church

Assurance of Salvation

Who should have assurance of
salvation?

“such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love Him in sincerity, endeavouring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace”

–Westminster Confession of Faith

2 Peter 1:3-11

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence... so that... you may become partakers of the divine nature...

5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, knowledge, 6 self-control, steadfastness, godliness, 7 brotherly affection, and love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Conclusions- Who should have assurance of salvation?

1. Those with Inward Tokens

- ◆ Those who truly believe
- ◆ Those who love Christ

2. Those with Outward Fruit

- ◆ Those who supplement faith with good works
- ◆ Those who are being restored to the image of God; i.e. "partakers of the divine nature"

Who should not have assurance of
salvation?

“hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God, and estate of salvation (which hope of theirs shall perish”

–Westminster Confession of Faith

“The same Spirit teaches through James that the faith both of Abraham and of ourselves consists in works, not only in faith... At that time there were many -- and this tends to be a perpetual evil in the church -- who openly disclosed their unbelief by neglecting and overlooking all the proper works of believers, yet did not cease to boast of the false name of faith.”

—John Calvin

Summary of the Reformed
Doctrine of Assurance of Salvation
John Calvin on 1 Corinthians 10:12

“there are two kinds of assurance.”

“The one is that which rests on the promises of God, because a pious conscience feels assured that God will never be wanting to it; and, relying on this unconquerable persuasion, triumphs boldly and intrepidly over Satan and sin, and yet, nevertheless, keeping in mind its own infirmity, casts itself upon God, and with carefulness and anxiety commits itself to him. This kind of assurance is sacred, and is inseparable from faith.”

“The other arises from negligence, when men, puffed up with the gifts that they have, give themselves no concern, as if they were beyond the reach of danger, but rest satisfied with their condition. Hence it is that they are exposed to all the assaults of Satan. This is the kind of assurance that Paul would have the Corinthians to abandon, because he saw that they were satisfied with themselves under the influence of a silly conceit.”

Restoring the Image of God
through Christlikeness

Christ is the Image of God

“Christ, who is the image of God.”

2 Corinthians 4:4

Predestined to be like Christ

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son... And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

Romans 8:29-30

Predestined to be like Christ

“But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Ephesians 4:20-24

Christlikeness is the restoration
of the image of God in us

Christlikeness is part of God's re- creation

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Colossians 3:10

Restoring the Image of God
through the Imitation of Christ

Imitate Christ's Humility

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:1-8

Imitate Christ's Humility

A. What Jesus Did

1. Jesus did not cling to his equality with God
2. He emptied Himself by becoming a servant

B. What we are to do

3. We are to consider others as more significant than ourselves- do not cling to our equality with others
4. Look not only to our own interests but to the interests of others - empty ourselves

Imitate Christ's Servanthood

Jn 13:13-17

You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

Imitate Christ's Servanthood

Mt 20:25-28

But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Imitate Christ's Servanthood

a) The Master of the universe came to serve as the lowliest household servant and gave his life for me

b) My calling in Christ is to serve others and give my life for them

Imitate Christ's Suffering

1 Peter 3:18, 4:1-2

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

Imitate Christ's Suffering

a) Christ suffered for the benefit of the unrighteous

b) Suffering for obedience is intended to conform us to the will of God

Imitate Christ's Charity Toward Others

Colossians 3:10-14

But now you must... put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator... Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Imitate Christ's Charity Toward Others

- a) Consider all the charity Jesus has shown toward you – such as forgiveness
- b) You must show others the same charity

Imitate Christ's Love for Others

For fellow Believers

John 15:12-13 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

Imitate Christ's Love for fellow Believers

1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Imitate Christ's Love for fellow Believers

(1) Jesus has loved us so much that he laid down his life for us

(2) We should be willing to give up this world's goods for a brother

Imitate Christ's Love for One's Enemies

Romans 5:10 "while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son"

Imitate Christ's Love for One's Enemies

Romans 12:19-20 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

Imitate Christ's Love for One's Enemies

- (1) While we were God's enemies, Jesus died for us
- (2) We are to supply the needs of our enemies
- (3) Loving our enemies heaps burning coals of conviction on his head so that he might repent

For Further Study

- John MacArthur, Kingdom Living Here and Now
- John RW Stott, Basic Christianity
- Timothy Lane and Paul David Tripp, How People Change
- Paul David Tripp, Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands