

# *Pre Confession*

## *Catechism*

### *Willoughby Heights*

Contents:

Form for Public Profession of Faith

Worksheets to go with Donald VanDyken's *With All My Heart*

Examining One's Faith

Author: Rev. R. C. Janssen Ph.D.

*With input of Rev. J. Roukema*

# Form for the Public Profession of Faith

---

## Address

Beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ:

We thank the Lord our God for the grace given us by adopting us to be his children and receiving us into his covenant. We acknowledge his love and power, by which he instills in his children the desire publicly to profess their faith in him in the presence of his holy church, so that they may receive admission to the holy supper.

## Profession

Since you have now come here to make this profession before God and his holy church, and hereby to receive admission to the holy supper, we ask you to answer sincerely to the following questions:

**First**, do you wholeheartedly believe the doctrine of the Word of God, summarized in the confessions and taught here in this Christian church? Do you promise by the grace of God steadfastly to continue in this doctrine in life and death, rejecting all heresies and errors conflicting with God's Word?

**Second**, do you acknowledge God's covenant promises, which have been signified and sealed to you in your baptism? Do you truly detest and humble yourself before God because of your sins and seek your life outside of yourself in Jesus Christ?

**Third**, do you declare that you love the Lord God and that it is your heartfelt desire to serve him according to his Word, to forsake the world, and to crucify your old nature?

**Fourth**, do you firmly resolve to commit your whole life to the Lord's service as a living member of his church? Do you promise to submit willingly to the admonition and discipline of the church, if it should happen, and may God graciously prevent it, that you become delinquent either in doctrine or in conduct? \_\_\_\_\_, what is your answer?

**Answer:** *I do.*

*After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet 5:10, 11).*

=====

## ***The book and the worksheets***

The worksheets that follow go with Donald VanDyken's *With All My Heart*.

For each lesson, you are expected to read the assigned chapters (usually 4 chapters). You are to complete the "reading the chapter" questions as you go. These help you to understand the points being made. We will not be discussing these questions in class, other than verify you had no issues completing them.

When you have read the chapter, do the reflection question(s). Everyone taking the class will have to read out their answer to every "reflection" question. That way, we get to hear what each person thinks without being influenced by another's response. After hearing the answers, we will discuss them.

**Please have the first four chapters done for the first class.** Reading a chapter and doing the questions could serve as your devotional time at the start or end of the day.

## Introductory Matters

### 1. The Creeds and Confessions of the Church

#### Reading the chapter

Complete: Through confessions we \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

Define the following terms:

Creed: \_\_\_\_\_

Ecumenical: \_\_\_\_\_

Confession: \_\_\_\_\_

Reformed: \_\_\_\_\_

Do we use our creeds and confessions as additions to the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible is a word from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_; a creed or confession is a word from \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_.

Can the Bible be wrong? \_\_\_\_\_ Can creeds and confessions be wrong? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do we have creeds and confessions? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following sentences:

The Belgic Confession is a statement of faith with a view to \_\_\_\_\_

The Heidelberg Catechism is a statement of faith with a view to \_\_\_\_\_

The Canons of Dort is a statement of faith with a view to \_\_\_\_\_

What functions of confessional statements are referred to when they are called *standards*?

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

#### Reflection

What do you consider to be the main benefits of having creeds and confessions? What are the main risks?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do the Canadian Reformed Churches reap the benefits and avoid the risks? \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is it right of the church to ask you to agree with its creeds and confessions to make public profession of faith?

\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Introductory Matters

### 2. *What is Religion?*

#### *Reading the chapter*

Society views religion to be \_\_\_\_\_

Can one escape religion, be “non-religious”? \_\_\_\_\_

What is religion? \_\_\_\_\_

God reveals Himself to mankind in general revelation (creation, providence). How do people by nature respond to this revelation? \_\_\_\_\_

There are only two religions in the world; which? \_\_\_\_\_

In our current start (after falling into sin), which is our religion? \_\_\_\_\_

How do we come to know the religion we should have? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens as the light of special revelation opens our eyes? \_\_\_\_\_

From what responsibility can we never escape? \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

Read Psalm 139 about how God knows you and sees you. Write down 5 words which describe how you feel about this. Some possible words to get you going: threatening, comforting, encouraging, unfair, caring, domineering,...

---

---

---

Is believing in God something that belongs to your private life, limited to your personal life and to the Sunday, or does it affect your whole life, also Monday through Saturday? Explain how this shows in your own life and describe how you feel about the fact that believing God is something that covers all of life ( ...in life and death, with body and soul...)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Note: the next worksheet BEGINS with a reflection question; do it before you read the next chapter.**

## Introductory Matters

### 3. The Reasons for Public Profession of Faith

#### Reflection

Before you read chapter 3, write down why you want to make public profession of faith.

---

---

---

---

#### Reading the chapter

Does professing your faith *make* you a member of the church? \_\_\_\_\_

What act of God indicates one is a member of the church? \_\_\_\_\_

Does profession of faith mean the end of learning (catechism)? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete: Profession of faith can only be made when you have passed an examination, that is, that elders find you are qualified \_\_\_\_\_ that is \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

In which two ways are you related to the Lord God? \_\_\_\_\_

---

How often has the Lord told you that He loves you and will be faithful to you? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the relationship between the heart and the mouth? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete: Baptism is the sacrament of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, it is \_\_\_\_\_. The

Lord's Supper is the sacrament of \_\_\_\_\_ and requires \_\_\_\_\_; it is \_\_\_\_\_.

Why is baptism called a *passive* sacrament? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Why is the Lord's Supper called an *active* sacrament? \_\_\_\_\_

---

What is the role of the church in bringing someone from Baptism to the Lord's Supper? \_\_\_\_\_

---

#### Reflection

Look back at your answer above. How would you answer that question now that you have read the chapter?

---

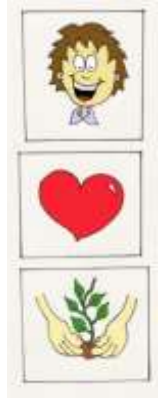
---

---

---

---

---



## Introductory Matters

### 4. When to Make Profession of Faith

#### Reading the chapter

Complete: If you have serious trouble believing, you must never \_\_\_\_\_

What was the last question your parents answered when you were baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

Is God as much the God of children as of adults? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the difference between a newborn and a twenty-year old? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete: Profession of faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_.

(*Not a question, but to make sure you realize this:*) When you are spiritually mature you serve responsibly within

**Christ's church**, within **marriage**, and within **society** (career, volunteer).

Why must a five year old who says he loves Jesus still wait with profession of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

Who decides when you are mature enough to make profession of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Reflection

How spiritually mature do you consider yourself?

---

---

---

---

What hard evidence of your spiritual maturity do you have for yourself? What convinces you that you believe?

---

---

---

---

---

---

What evidence of your spiritual maturity is there that others (parents, church community) can see? What should convince others that you believe?

---

---

---

---

---

## Our Faith – Form Question 1

### 5. *The Objective Basis (Foundation) of Our Faith*

#### *Reading the chapter*

What is all faith ultimately in? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain why faith in God is of a different degree not different kind from faith in, e.g. a bank manager. \_\_\_\_\_

Complete: feelings must be based on \_\_\_\_\_

What is *subjective* knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

Can subjective knowledge be the basis (foundation) for our faith? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the objective basis (foundation) for our faith? \_\_\_\_\_

Is religious truth a matter of personal experience and preference? \_\_\_\_\_

Where must your faith in the Triune God find its foundation? \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

Reflect on your own faith, your own convictions and beliefs. Is your faith more *subjectively* based (“I think it’s true; others can think what they want”) or *objectively* based (“I know it’s true and everyone should think this too”)?

Explain why you answered as you did.

*My faith is more* \_\_\_\_\_ *based because* \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

Canadian Reformed people tend to be known for their objective approach to faith and to have an aversion to the subjective approach to faith. Is the subjective wrong; should feelings play no role at all?

---

---

---

---

---

When does God’s Word reach you most powerfully? In what way?

---

---

---

---

---

## Our Faith – Form Question 1

### 6. *The Basis of Our Faith in Revelation*

#### *Reading the chapter*

Which are the three areas of general revelation? \_\_\_\_\_

What is meant by “revelation”? \_\_\_\_\_

What does “general” imply in the phrase “general revelation”? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the three areas of general revelation briefly:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Name three reasons for general revelation.

---

---

---

What do we need to understand general revelation properly? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do we find the “face of God” and hear “the words of God”? \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Reflection***

Where did your faith *come from*? How can you keep your faith *growing*?

---

---

---

---

---

---

Describe a moment in your life where God revealed Himself to you in *general revelation*.

---

---

---

---

Describe a moment in your life where God revealed Himself to you in *special revelation*.

---

---

---

---



## Our Faith – Form Question 1

### ***7. The Inspiration and Canonicity of the Bible***

#### ***Reading the chapter***

Why is the Bible truly God's Word? \_\_\_\_\_

How did God make clear that men spoke from Him? \_\_\_\_\_

If the Bible is inspired by God, how come we still see different writing styles? \_\_\_\_\_

Inspiration is not about magic but about \_\_\_\_\_

What does infallibility mean? \_\_\_\_\_

What word does the New Testament use to indicate that God does what He has said? \_\_\_\_\_

When does a book qualify for the canon of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Have the Scriptures changed over the years? \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible cannot be questioned it speaks to us with authority. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Reflection***

Why do you trust the Bible? How do you know it's not a fake? How do you know other books (e.g. Koran, Book of Mormons, Guru Grant Sahib) are fakes? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you feel about there being no debate with the Bible? For example, the Bible says women shall not preach in the church or people are only to marry in the Lord or Adam was created from dust. How do *you* deal with that?

## Our Faith – Form Question 1

### 8. *Two Testaments – One Bible*

#### *Reading the chapter*

Is the Old Testament for the Jews and the New Testament for Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

Is God in the Old Testament strict and harsh, and in the New Testament loving and merciful? \_\_\_\_\_

Is God's covenant in the Old Testament based on race, and in the New Testament based on faith? \_\_\_\_\_

Was salvation in the Old Testament by works, and is it in the New Testament by faith? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the diversity within the Bible mean it cannot be a unity? \_\_\_\_\_

Name three ways in which you can show the Old and New Testaments are connected and united.

---

---

---

When God speaks of the new covenant, what is the sense of 'new'? \_\_\_\_\_

What is 'covenant'? \_\_\_\_\_

How might one illustrate the progressive nature of revelation? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

What's wrong with seeing the Bible as a source book for moral lessons, great ideas, and doctrinal truths? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete: the Bible is God's great story of \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

What do you do when you find something in the Bible you don't get, or you're not sure how it should impact your life? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

Many things in the Old Testament are no longer relevant. E.g. we don't sacrifice animals anymore. How do you use the Old Testament in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Confession and Perseverance – Form Question 1

### ***9. The Trinitarian Faith***

#### ***Reading the chapter***

What must you be assured of in your own conscience regarding the church's creeds and confessions?

---

Why is the Apostles' Creed called "ecumenical"? \_\_\_\_\_

What should you think, when you present the Gospel to others? \_\_\_\_\_

What is one of the duties of your profession? \_\_\_\_\_

Is God's being – One God, Three Persons – comprehensible? \_\_\_\_\_

What is meant by "ontological equality"? \_\_\_\_\_

---

What is meant by "economical hierarchy"? \_\_\_\_\_

---

#### ***Reflection***

Would you consider someone who is convinced God is not Three in One but simply One (like Jehovah's Witnesses) to hold the true religion? In other words: do you think they are believers who are saved? Why (not)?

---

---

---

---

---

God is one and three at the same time. What significance does this have for your (faith) life?

Try to think of at least two (2) distinct things.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Confession and Perseverance – Form Question 1

### *10. The Teaching of Mother Church*

#### *Reading the chapter*

What does doctrine include? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you be a true believer with just a Bible and no church? \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

What is “grace”? \_\_\_\_\_

What main “means” does God use to convey His grace to us? \_\_\_\_\_

What other “means” might He use? \_\_\_\_\_

Why can you not say of the preaching, “Well, that’s just the preacher’s opinion”? \_\_\_\_\_

What three things should preaching speak to? \_\_\_\_\_

What advantages are there to Catechism preaching? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the summary your own conviction – would you say it? \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

How would you describe the “food” you are fed by your local church? What sort of food would you compare it to: candy, cake, baby food, meat and potatoes, dry bread, a banquet, a thanksgiving meal,...

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

When people are confronted with big decisions, they often do a lot of praying about it. And when they’ve made a decision, they’ll tell you “I prayed lots about it, so it’s good.” What are your thoughts on this?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Confession and Perseverance – Form Question 1

### *11. Is Scripture Enough?*

#### *Reading the chapter*

What is relativism? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there room for relativism? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you believe? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the Spirit of God first of all given to? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the ultimate truth? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the word “complete” mean in “complete doctrine of salvation”? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Which two churches add to the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Which three sects add to the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

What are God’s people saved to? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

What do you think should not be in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think should be added to the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To what extent is Bible Study and attending both worship services on Sunday a priority in your life?

(To answer this question, describe what you currently do with regards to worship and bible Study, and then describe what you think you should be doing.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Confession and Perseverance – Form Question 1

### *12. Keeping the Faith*

#### *Reading the chapter*

Why are you being asked steadfastly to continue in this doctrine of Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why promise? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What must we clearly see when making our promise? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can you be sure you will keep your promise? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What has God promised you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are you promising God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

Why are you willing to make a promise regarding the future, when you don't know what the future holds?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What should you do if later in life you figure that you cannot “continue in this profession”?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## In Covenant – Form Question 2

### *13. God's Covenant Promise*

#### *Reading the chapter*

What do most covenants involve? \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What makes clear man is in a special relationship to God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Through the Fall, man went from being a covenant \_\_\_\_\_ to a covenant \_\_\_\_\_

What is God's promise in the Covenant of Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the heart of the Covenant of Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How does Jesus Christ perfectly express the Covenant of Grace? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We speak of an Old and a New Covenant, yet it's the same covenant. What is different about the New Covenant with a view to the Old? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

Of what significance is it to you personally, that you are part of God's covenant? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why are you willing to accept the responsibilities that come with the covenant? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## In Covenant – Form Question 2

### ***14. Looking at Your Baptism***

Note to those taking this course but not yet baptized: baptism is a sign and seal of the covenant with God, but is not the reality of the covenant. Baptism is often compared to a wedding ring: the symbol of God's promise to an individual. In your situation, consider yourself not yet married but most definitely engaged. You'll get the 'ring' (baptism) at your 'wedding' (profession of faith).

#### ***Reading the chapter***

Who initiates the covenant? \_\_\_\_\_

The sign of baptism tells us what three things? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What must our response be to God's promises? \_\_\_\_\_

What does baptism as a sign identify? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What two purposes do seals have in ordinary life? \_\_\_\_\_

How is baptism a seal in these two senses? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What name does God give His children? \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Reflection***

How important is it to you that you have been baptized? Or, if you are not yet baptized, how important is it to you that you will be baptized? Explain your response.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Despite marriage vows, people sometimes break up and divorce. Do you trust God to keep His promises? Why (not)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**In Covenant – Form Question 2**

***15. You Need to See Your Heart***

***Reading the chapter***

When you profess your faith, what does the Judge ask? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God hates both sins and sinners. How can we tell God hates sinners too? \_\_\_\_\_

How was your nature, your heart, when you were born? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do our sins come from? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete: We are born with Adam's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

What is the first part of the three things the Catechisms says we must know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What should you thank the grace of God for? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Reflection***

We are to truly detest and humble ourselves. Do you? In what way? How can others see this?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you find difficult about being humble before God? Why? How do you try to deal with this?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are the two sins you have to fight against most in your life? (I'm not expecting you to write down the answer. But do think about this carefully. You need to know this for yourself.)

## In Covenant – Form Question 2

### *16. Living Your Life*

#### *Reading the chapter*

What does the second question deal with? \_\_\_\_\_

How can we go from death to life? \_\_\_\_\_

What is justification? \_\_\_\_\_

Why can God justify us with perfect justice? \_\_\_\_\_

How can someone dead in sin come to faith in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Do we live on our own? \_\_\_\_\_

What will those with faith in Jesus strive to do? \_\_\_\_\_

To live apart from the law of God is \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord's way is \_\_\_\_\_ and they  
are \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

How do you feel about the fact that you, though guilty, are justified (forgiven) because of what someone else did?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What convinces you that the Holy Spirit has instilled faith in you (that you “have seen the light”)?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Loving Christ – Form Question 3

### *17. Answering With Love*

#### *Reading the chapter*

What has the Lord stated in clear and unmistakable terms every Lord's Day? \_\_\_\_\_

What is God with respect to love (2 things)? \_\_\_\_\_

How can you tell whether you love God? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the counterfeit of love (2 terms)? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete: \_\_\_\_\_ for your brother and you \_\_\_\_\_ for God.

What does love equal? \_\_\_\_\_

What will you do in your love for God? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to love covenantally? \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

What analogy or illustration could you use to describe your love for God. Is it like loving ice-cream, loving a parent, loving a sport, loving a friend, loving to work-out, loving to relax, ...?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What distracts you personally from loving God the way you should? How do you address this?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Loving Christ – Form Question 3

**18. Serving Christ**

**Reading the chapter**

What is the purpose of salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

Why must you be sharply questioned here? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Complete: So although \_\_\_\_\_, still your

\_\_\_\_\_

Who are not your lord and master? \_\_\_\_\_ Who is? \_\_\_\_\_

How do we know what the will of the Lord is? \_\_\_\_\_

What will control your service when you have made profession of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your primary mode of service to God? \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflection**

Do you figure (a) the church exists to serve you or (b) you exist to serve the church? Describe your thoughts on this and give examples and illustrations of what you mean and experience.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What role do feelings play in your service to Christ? E.g. is it okay to not feel like volunteering for a mission’s trip?  
Is it okay to start some ministry you feel is needed even if the church says “Don’t do it” or “Don’t do it like that”?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Loving Christ – Form Question 3

**19. Our Service on Day One**

**Reading the chapter**

Is the Sunday the last day of the weekend? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the church not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Complete: \_\_\_\_\_ presents Himself to \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What liberty does God give churches? \_\_\_\_\_

Who serves? \_\_\_\_\_

How should we come before God? \_\_\_\_\_

Name some ways in which God serves us. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name some ways in which we serve God. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name five ways in which worship impacts weekly service.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflection**

Are you content with our mode of worship? Name one thing you appreciate and one thing that could improve.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Loving Christ – Form Question 3

### *20. Separating From the World*

#### *Reading the chapter*

What does the Greek word behind “church” in the New Testament mean? \_\_\_\_\_

What is our first and main identity? \_\_\_\_\_

What is powerful in the life of the Christian’s struggle? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the tragic thing about liars? \_\_\_\_\_

What is “the world”? \_\_\_\_\_

Why can we without fear turn our backs on the world? \_\_\_\_\_

What is one of the levels of maturity you should be reaching? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What heads the list of qualifications Christ laid out for His followers? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the two negatives? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the positive? \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

How can you tell the church you belong to is a community called-out by Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We are all sinners - you too (right?). How do you measure “separating from the world”? When do you know you’re “good enough” before God?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you consider yourself “good enough”? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Christ's Rule – Form Question 4

### 21. *The Government of the Church I*

#### *Reading the chapter*

We will make our promise to submit against the pressure of which two currents?

---

---

Into what does submission to Christ bring us? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the constitution of the church? \_\_\_\_\_

By whom does Christ gain obedience? \_\_\_\_\_

Christ appointed officers and armed them with what? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of authority do elders have? \_\_\_\_\_

What are we doing when we yield obedience to elders? \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reflection*

Submission to Christ means being a *member* of His church, not just *attending* a church. How do you feel about church membership, including the obligations it brings (e.g., worship twice a Sunday, voluntary contributions).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Is the church a democracy? Give reasons for your answer. Also explain how church members are involved in the governing of the church.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Christ's Rule – Form Question 4

### ***22. The Government of the Church II***

#### ***Reading the chapter***

The two-office view is about the offices of \_\_\_\_\_

The three-office view is about the offices of \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a practical difference? \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: in Rev. Janssen's opinion the scheme minister-prophet, deacon-priest and elder-king is forced.)

What is the primary duty of a minister? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the primary duty of an elder? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the primary duty of a deacon? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are we to respect officers who are imperfect men? \_\_\_\_\_

Episcopal church government means the church is ruled by \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational church government means the church is ruled by \_\_\_\_\_

Presbyterial church government means the church is ruled by \_\_\_\_\_

What should be carefully preserved? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the benefit of the broader assemblies. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Reflection***

Do you feel that the officers in our own congregation are going about their work properly? Why (not)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Will you play an active role in the church? What do you see yourself doing in the next ten to twenty years? Would you be prepared to take on a leadership role of some sort (Cadets&Gems, Step Up, YPS, VBS, Short Term Mission trips, committees, if you're a male: minister, elder, deacon). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Christ's Rule – Form Question 4

**23. The Discipline of the Church**

**Reading the chapter**

A church without discipline is \_\_\_\_\_

What sin is often added to living in sin? \_\_\_\_\_

Your promise to stay where God put you is a commitment that demonstrates what? \_\_\_\_\_

Who alone is self-defining? \_\_\_\_\_

Whom does God use to tell you who you are? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has the power of physical discipline? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has the power of spiritual discipline? \_\_\_\_\_

What is “excommunication”? \_\_\_\_\_

Who must be excommunicated? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the three marks of the church? \_\_\_\_\_

What grace of God comes to you through the elders of the church? \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflection**

Do you feel committed to the Canadian Reformed Church, or might you well be Pentecostal in five years' time?

Explain your response.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How are you when it comes to warning others when they do something wrong?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you feel about having the elders make sure you keep your promises?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Examining one's faith

The following questions are the type of questions you might be asked during your faith examination. Another list of such questions can be found in the back of VanDyken's book. The questions below are intended as short-answer questions, often just a yes or no will do. Realize, these questions are to be answered, not in accordance with what you expect the elders want you to say, but in accordance with what you know and are convinced of. You are, after all, professing YOUR faith.

1. Does God exist?
2. How do you know?
3. How does this testimony come to you?
4. What is your certainty and comfort in life?
5. What do you need to know in order to live and die in this certainty and comfort?
6. How do you know your sins and misery?
7. What does God's law require of us?
8. Can you keep this law of yourself?
9. Why (not)?
10. Did God create us this way?
11. How were we when God created us?
12. How come we are by nature sinful?
13. What did Adam and Eve do?
14. How does this affect us today?
15. Will God leave disobedience unpunished?
16. How can we be saved?
17. What does it mean that Jesus Christ is our Mediator?
18. Will *all* people who have ever lived be saved?
19. If not, who will?
20. What is "having faith" or "believing"?
21. Do those who do not believe in God, choose to do so of their own free will?
22. Do those who do believe in God, choose to do so of their own free will?
23. How do people come to faith?
24. In which documents has the Abbotsford Canadian Reformed Church articulated her faith?
25. The Apostles' Creed refers to Father, Son and Spirit. How many true gods are there?
26. By what term do we refer to the essence of God?
27. How might the relationship between the three Persons be described?
28. What does it mean that God is "Father"?
29. What does it mean that God is "Almighty"?
30. What comfort lies in the fact that God is your Almighty Father?
31. What does it mean that God is Creator?
32. Does anything exist which God has not made?
33. What do we mean by God's "providence"?
34. Is Jesus God?
35. Did Jesus become a true human being?
36. If so, how?
37. Was Jesus a human being like any other?
38. What does the title "Christ" mean?
39. What does the anointing of Christ mean?
40. What does the name "Jesus" mean?

41. What did Jesus do to save us?
42. How are we reconciled to God?
43. Did Christ remain dead?
44. What does it mean for you that Christ lives today?
45. Is Christ still a human being today?
46. Where is He according to His human nature?
47. What is He doing there?
48. When will the Lord Jesus come back?
49. What will He do when He comes back?
50. Is the Holy Spirit God?
51. Is the Holy Spirit an impersonal power (God's energy) or is He a Person?
52. What is the task of the Holy Spirit in relation to creation?
53. What is the task of the Holy Spirit in relation to revelation?
54. What is the task of the Holy Spirit in relation to believers?
55. What is the Church?
56. Who gathers the Church?
57. May one be a member of any organization that calls itself Church?
58. How can one recognize a proper Church?
59. What is forgiveness of sins?
60. What is justification?
61. What is sanctification?
62. What happens to a believer when he dies?
63. When does the soul go to be with Christ?
64. What will yet happen to a person's body?
65. When will this happen?
66. What is eternal life?
67. Of what benefit is faith to you?
68. Can we earn our salvation by means of good works?
69. Why (not)?
70. Can we earn our salvation by means of our faith?
71. Why (not)?
72. How are we saved?
73. Who works faith in man's hearts?
74. How does He do so?
75. What is God's Word?
76. Is God's Word in the Bible or is the whole Bible God's Word?
77. Can you ignore certain bits of the Bible if you don't like them?
78. How does the Holy Spirit strengthen our faith?
79. What are sacraments?
80. Which sacraments do we have?
81. What is signified and sealed in baptism?
82. Are infants allowed to be baptized?
83. Why (not)?
84. What is signified and sealed in the Lord's Supper?
85. Are little children allowed to partake of the Lord's Supper?
86. Why (not)?
87. What does self-examination entail?
88. May those who live godless lives partake of the Lord's Supper?
89. What should happen with them?
90. Is a church allowed to pass judgment over a member's beliefs and lifestyle?

91. Why (not)?
92. Why should we do good works?
93. Can those be saved who don't do good works?
94. Why (not)?
95. What does the conversion of man consist of?
96. What are good works?
97. Name all the beings we are allowed to worship.
98. How are we to worship God?
99. Name two ways in which God's Name is commonly misused.
100. Why should we rest on the Day of Rest?
101. Why are we to obey authorities such as parents, consistories, and governments?
102. Are you allowed to do with your life whatever you want?
103. Why is adultery wrong?
104. What is meant by the statement: people are called to be stewards or managers of creation?
105. Is it always okay to tell the truth and always wrong to tell a lie? Explain your answer.
106. Why does God emphasize that we should have no wrong desires in our hearts?
107. Can those converted to God do perfect works?
108. Are those converted to God without sin?
109. Can believers fall into sin?
110. If believers cannot keep God's law perfectly, should they still try?
111. How should they go about this?
112. To whom should we pray?
113. Why may we pray to God?
114. What should we ask of God?
115. What is the prayer taught us by Christ?
116. What does it mean to ask God to hallow His Name?
117. How does God's kingdom come?
118. Does "Your will be done" mean "Do whatever pleases You, I'll grin and bear it"? Explain.
119. Why pray for daily bread when you already have it?
120. Why pray for forgiveness if Christ has already died for our sins?
121. Why ask God to deliver us from evil?
122. Why pray to *God* and not someone else?
123. What does *amen* mean to you?