



*One pecan roll to go!*

# Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church

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## Yes, Creed AND Christ

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Years ago when I was a Christian middle school teacher, I read a portion from the Heidelberg Catechism for morning devotions. One of the students chimed in and remarked that her church follows no creeds, but Jesus Christ. “No creed, but Christ,” she said. I asked her to repeat that, which she did, and then I asked her if she believed that, and she said, “Of course.” I remarked, “Congratulations, you just made a credal statement.” After a pause, she said, “Yeah, I think I did.”

What this young lady meant was that her church does not follow any historical creeds that might be attributed to Dutch Calvinism or Scottish Presbyterianism. And I understand why. For many established churches, creeds and confessions have become perfunctory statements with little or no significance beyond the liturgical “to do” thing we say in unison in public worship, but this is not true for all confessing Reformed Presbyterian churches.

Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church incorporates several creeds, catechisms and a confession as part of its system of beliefs. A creed is a concise, written summary of Biblical doctrine, or a confession of faith for public use. The purpose of a creed is to set forth certain biblical articles of belief which are regarded by the framers as necessary for salvation for the well-being of the Christian church.

Often creeds and confessions result from doctrinal controversies and are intended to be concise statements to refute errors. In distinctively Reformed Presbyterian churches, creeds are based on the revelation of Scripture as that only infallible rule of Christian faith and practice. Creeds and Confessions, when submitted to Scriptural authority, are considered secondary standards to the primary rule of Scripture.

Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church uses the Apostle’s Creed and the Nicene Creed. We believe that as God’s elect we are called to confess His name as one body united in Him. To that end, we speak of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit with one voice. Creeds are not historically confessed because our fathers and grandfathers in the church always said them, and we do not preserve them for the sake of church tradition. We desire to confess the Trinity. Creeds to us are vibrant expressions of our faith, and confessed with clarity and conviction they are important to our worship. As for our doctrinal standards and the standards of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger Catechism, and the Shorter Catechism are followed. Paul tells us, “Every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:11). So, we say, “Yes, creed and Christ.”