### **GRACE OPC HISTORY AND VOWS: WEEK 7**

# Communicant membership vow #4

**Last weeks:** Proto-Presbyterians → Presbyterians (1560) → American Presbyterians (1789) →

Orthodox Presbyterians (straight teaching via elders) (1936) → Grace OPC (1971)

**This week:** Communicant membership vow  $\#4 \rightarrow$ **Next weeks:** Vow #5

# Communicant church membership process

Review  $\rightarrow$  Interview  $\rightarrow$  Take vows publicly (profession of faith)

#### 1. God's revelation

Do you believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the Word of God, and its doctrine of salvation to be the perfect and only true doctrine of salvation?

2 Peter 1:16–21 2 Timothy 3:16–17 Luke 24:25–32

#### 2. God's revelation of himself

Do you believe in one living and true God, in whom eternally there are three distinct persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—who are the same in being and equal in power and glory, and that Jesus Christ is God the Son, come in the flesh?

John 14:6 Acts 4:12 Matthew 28:18–20

## 3. God's revelation of good news

Do you confess that because of your sinfulness you abbor and humble yourself before God, that you repent of your sin, and that you trust for salvation not in yourself but in Jesus Christ alone?

Romans 3:23 Matthew 22:37–40 Romans 6:23

#### 4. God's revelation of his King

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your sovereign Lord, and do you promise that, in reliance on the grace of God, you will serve him with all that is in you, forsake the world, resist the devil, put to death your sinful deeds and desires, and lead a godly life?

John 14:15 Matthew 10:38–39 Luke 14:33

 $Faith \rightarrow works = progression within vows$ 

## Deep dive into vow #4: Jesus is Lord

### **Acknowledging Jesus as Lord**

- Pattern and progression within vows and Reformed faith:
  - Faith → works, promises → performance, preface → 10 commandments, Romans 1–11 → 12–16,
    Ephesians 2:1–9 → 2:10, Jesus as Priest → Jesus as Prophet and King, justification → sanctification
  - Within wows: vows 1–4a  $\rightarrow$  vow 4b and 5, acknowledgment  $\rightarrow$  service
- Lord Jesus Christ = Adonai Joshua Messiah (in Hebrew) = Lord of lords (Sovereign Lord) Savior, Messiah and unlike Moses, Jesus (Joshua) brings us into the promised land
  - "Jesus" = "Joshua"; "Deliverer", 'Savior": Matthew 1:21 and Deuteronomy 31:1–8, John 4:24–26

- "Christ" = "Anointed One", "Messiah": Psalm 2:2, Matthew 16:16
  - Priest: Hebrews 2:17–18, 4:14–16
  - Prophet: John 1:1–3, 14, 18
  - King: Matthew 28:18–20, Philippians 2:5–11
- "Sovereign Lord" = "Jehovah", "Master": Romans 10:9, Ephesians 1:19–23, 1 Corinthians 15:25–28, Revelation 1:9–20, 5:1–14, 19:16, Psalm 2
- Not just "sovereign Lord" but *your* sovereign Lord: Matthew 6:24, 7:21–23, 24–29; Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; etc.
  - Over family: Matthew 10:37
  - Over comfort: Matthew 10:38–39
  - Over society: Acts 5:29
  - Over everything and anything: Luke 14:33
  - Through his Word: John 14:15

## Serving Jesus as Lord

- In reliance on the grace of God: John 15:15, 1 Corinthians 15:10 and the means of grace
- Serve with all that is in you (Psalm 103:1; Matthew 4:10, 5:6, 22:37–40; Romans 12)
- Forsake the world: Matthew 13:22, 1 John 2:15–17, Romans 12:2
- Resist the devil: Matthew 4:1–11, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:6–11
- Put to death your sinful deeds and desires: Romans 6:1–14, 8:13 Colossians 3:5, Galatians 5:24, Ephesians 4:17–32
- Lead a godly life: Galatians 5:22–24, Hebrews 8:10

#### G. I. Williamson on the Ten Commandments

The First Commandment	The <i>object</i> of true worship
The Second Commandment	The manner of true worship
The Third Commandment	The attitude of true worship
The Fourth Commandment	The time of true worship
The Fifth Commandment	Reverence for authority
The Sixth Commandment	Reverence for life
The Seventh Commandment	Reverence for marriage
The Eighth Commandment	Reverence for <i>property</i>
The Ninth Commandment	Reverence for truth
The Tenth Commandment	Reverence for God as our chief desire

And constantly go back to "acknowledging" content of vows 1–4a! \*\*