

QUESTIONS ON THE STATEMENT OF FAITH AT COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

- for prospective Council Members and Teaching Staff

INTRODUCTION

The basis of the Constitution that controls Covenant Christian School says (Section 3):

"The supreme standard of the (School) shall be the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the infallible Word of God, as it is interpreted particularly in the light of and consistent with the Westminster Confession of Faith primarily, and other Reformed Confessions of Faith (such as the Belgic Confession, 39 Articles of Religion, Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689 and Augsburg Confession).

The Statement of Faith at Covenant Christian School is the Westminster Confession of Faith, giving due consideration to the other great historic Reformed confessions. It is understood that if there is a point of difference concerning matters of substance that enter into the Faith that exists between the Westminster Confession and the other Confessions, then priority is given to the Westminster Confession.

The relationship between the Confessions of Faith and the "Educational Creed" (enclosed) is a matter of function. The "Educational Creed" draws the overall principles gleaned from the Confessions that particularly relate to the task of education.

The questions that follow are intended to help you think through some of the overall themes that are contained within the Confessions. The interviewers will be concerned with distinctives of the Confessions but not unrelated details. These Confessions are so extensive that it would be unrealistic to expect any in-depth theological response. The concern is that you have general insights and appreciation of the Confessions that are sufficient to be able to subscribe to Section 3 of the School's Constitution.

NO WRITTEN RESPONSE IS REQUIRED, but please be prepared for a general discussion on the Statement of Faith at the interview (I Peter 3:15).

QUESTIONS

1. Have you read the Westminster Confession of Faith and your own Church's particular Confession of Faith and understood the major theological themes which they teach?
2. What areas of difficulty have you had in understanding the Westminster Confession of Faith? (*Just identify any areas so that you may have them raised at the interview.*)
3. What areas of difficulty do you have in believing the statements of the Westminster Confession of Faith? (*Just identify any areas so that you may have them raised at the interview.*)

4. Describe in your own words your understanding and belief of the following topics, as a Christian:
- i) **The Scriptures and their authority as the Word of God**
(Westminster Confession of Faith 1:4)
"The authority of the holy scripture, for which it ought to be believed and obeyed, dependeth not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God, (who is truth itself,) the author thereof; and therefore it is to be received, because it is the word of God."
 - (ii) **Creation**
(Westminster Confession of Faith IV:1)
"It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make of nothing, the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good."
 - (iii) **Total Depravity**
(Westminster Confession of Faith IX:3)
"Man, by his fall into a state of sin, hath wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation, so as a natural man, being altogether averse from that good, and dead in sin, is not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto."
 - (iv) **Unconditional Election**
(Westminster Confession of Faith III:5)
"Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His immutable and eternal purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of His free grace and love alone, without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving Him thereunto; and all to the praise of His glorious grace."
 - (v) **Limited Atonement**
(Westminster Confession of Faith III:6)
"As God hath appointed the elect to glory, so hath He, by the eternal and most free purpose of His will fore-ordained all the means thereunto. Wherefore they who are elected being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ, are effectually called unto faith in Christ by His Spirit working in due season; are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by His power through faith unto salvation. Neither are any other redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only."
 - (vi) **Irresistible Grace**
(Westminster Confession of Faith X:1,2)
"All those whom God hath predestined unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly, to understand the things of God; taking away their heart of stone, and giving them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and by His almighty power determining them to that which is good; and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ, yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace. This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from any thing at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call to embrace the grace offered and conveyed by it."

(vii) **Perseverance of the Saints**

(Westminster Confession of Faith XVII:1)

"They whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace: but shall certainly persevere to the end, and be eternally saved."

5. Give your own definition of a Christian.
6. There are some areas where Christians differ in their beliefs. While the school does not demand uniformity in all these areas, it would be good to know your particular beliefs in the following areas:
- (i) Eschatological views (the second coming of Christ):
 - (ii) Baptism:
 - (iii) Covenant of Grace:
 - (iv) The Lord's Day or the Christian Sabbath:
 - (v) The continuity of the apostolic gifts:
7. What is your Profession of Faith (Personal Testimony)?

To help, you may like to follow the following outline:

- (i) What I was like:
My family, friends, interests were My security (most important value) was
My religious background and attitude about Christ was
- (ii) What God used to begin to open my eyes:
I was awakened to my need by (people, books, meeting, circumstances....) What I thought and/or noticed (about myself, God, others) at this point was
- (iii) What it was I saw/understood:
Those aspects of the gospel that touched me were I came to understand that Christ I saw my need was
- (iv) How Christ has/is affecting my life:
My relationships with My attitude toward My desires now are I'm now doing A difficult area of obedience is