

Personal Statement of Faith

What is a "Statement of Faith?"

A "Statement of Faith" is a declaration of what you believe and why. You are encouraged to look to scripture and what you learned in class as you discover what you believe.

What's an example?

The "Apostle's Creed" explains what we believe about our faith. There are 3 sections stating belief in God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Within the sections it declares belief in God as Creator, the virgin birth, Jesus' resurrection, the future return of Jesus, forgiveness, the importance of the church, and our spending eternity with Him.

Why is a "Statement of Faith" important?

As we grow in our relationship with God, it is important for us to be able to explain our faith to others as well as be sure of what we believe.

How do I write this?

You may be as creative as you like. For example, you may take each lesson from the syllabus and write what you believe and why. Or you may tell a story from your life and then share how that shows what you believe.

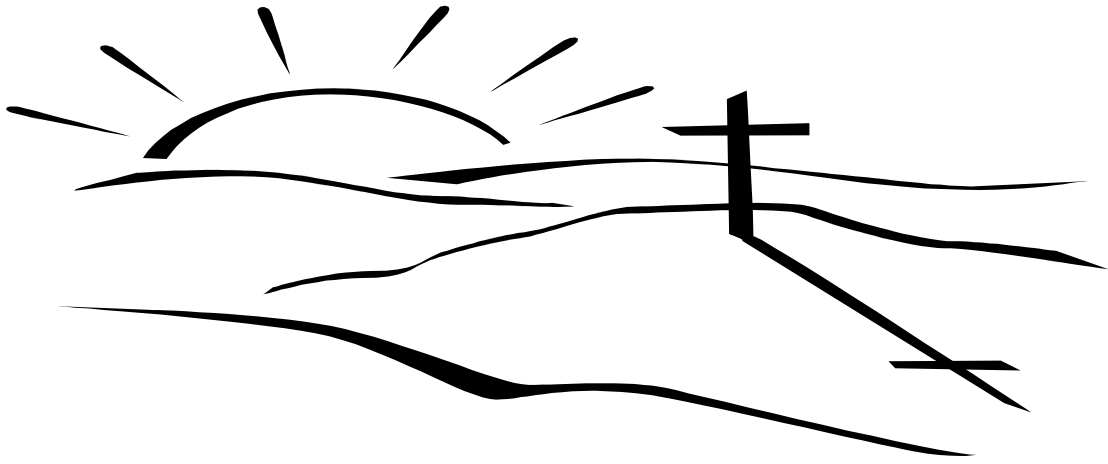
Talk with your parents, look up verses in your Bible and pray asking God to help you know what you believe. If there is an area that you're really struggling with, that's ok to share...you are writing a statement of what YOU believe...so come talk with Jim and write out your questions.

How long does the statement have to be?

You may make it as long as you would like to *however* to fully discuss each point of faith, it should be at least one page typed, double-spaced (Times New Roman or Arial with *normal* one-inch margins).

Questions to guide you as you write your personal "Statement of Faith."

- What do I believe about Creation?
- What do I believe about "The Fall" or Sin?
- What do I believe about the Covenant God made with Abraham and all people?
- What do I believe about the law, or Ten Commandments" given to Moses? Why were they given? What limits do they have?
- What do I believe about Israel?
- What do I believe about Jesus?
- What do I believe about Jesus' teachings (we looked at just a **piece** of his teachings in the Sermon on the Mount)?
- What do I believe about the Holy Spirit?
- What do I believe about the role of the church (Acts)?
- What do I believe about the Bible?
- What do I believe about prayer?
- What do I believe about worship?
- What do I believe about the Sacraments?



The Apostles' Creed: An example of a statement of faith

The basic creed of Reformed churches, as most familiarly known, is called the Apostles' Creed. It has received this title because of its great antiquity; it dates from very early times in the Church, a half century or so from the last writings of the New Testament (c. 180 A.D.).

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church*,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Amen.

*The word "catholic" refers not to the Roman Catholic Church, but to the universal church of the Lord Jesus Christ (All Christians, of all time, in all places)