

Personal Faith and Evangelism

1. Describe your faith in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and give some everyday examples of your trust in Jesus Christ?
2. What would you say is the foundation of your personal faith in Jesus?
3. **What is the Gospel according to the Bible and how does that message shape your life?**
4. **As a member of a local church, how have you made disciples of Christ who in turn have made other disciples of Christ? (who have become more like Jesus in what they think, say and do by the power of the Holy Spirit in them)**
5. What training have you received in sharing your faith, your testimony or the Gospel with others? Share some experiences you have had in doing so.
6. How many people have you led to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, through one-to-one, small group and larger group gatherings?
7. How many families or individuals not yet reached by the Gospel do you have a close relationship with?
8. Give two examples of how others see you as dependent upon God rather than self-reliant.
9. Complete the sentence from Scripture: God opposes the _____ but gives grace to the _____. What amazes you about grace from God for sinners?

Call

1. **Explain your call to ministry.**
2. **How has that call been confirmed?**
3. Examine a choice of three or more Scripture passages below that reveal God's ability to call his people to leadership and that person's ability to hear it. Note observations about circumstances or the content of the call itself, and developmental issues such as character and competency.

Noah:	Genesis 6:9-22
Abraham:	Genesis 12:1-7

Jacob:	Genesis 28:10-17
Joseph:	Genesis 37:5-11
Moses:	Exodus 3:1-15
Gideon:	Judges 6:11-27
Samson:	Judges 13:1-25
Samuel:	1 Samuel 3:1-21
David:	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Isaiah:	Isaiah 6:1-13
Jeremiah:	Jeremiah 1:1-10
John the Baptist:	Luke 1:5-17
Jesus (Mary):	Luke 1:26-38
Peter, Andrew, James, John:	Mark 1:14-20
Matthias:	Acts 1:20-26
Phillip, Stephen...	Acts 6:3-8
Saul/Paul:	Acts 9:1-19/ 13:1-4
Timothy:	Acts 16:1-5/ 2 Timothy 1:3-7

Where does your experience with God parallel these Biblical call processes?

4. Give some examples of how you are currently living out that call in the church and in the world.
5. How is Ephesians 4:10-13 relevant to your life as a ministry leader, and how would you describe yourself as an equipper of the saints for the work of ministry?
6. What does the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 mean to you as a leader?
7. How does your call to serve Christ's Body involve the whole Kingdom of God, including the local congregation, classis, denomination, and relationships within the worldwide church?
8. How might Satan try to invalidate you as a person or as a servant of the Lord?
9. How would you describe your leadership style?

Scripture:

1. Describe your commitment to the authority and inspiration of Scripture in the Old and New Testaments using one or more passages of Scripture.
2. What is your interpretative approach to "correctly handling the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15) and applying it to your life and others?

Old Testament

1. List the major divisions of the books of the Old Testament.
2. Trace the themes of “Kingdom,” “Covenant” and “Salvation” from the Old Testament, through Christ and into the present.
3. How do the first twelve chapters of Genesis form the foundation for and explain the purpose of the rest of Scripture and the plan of God?
4. Contrast the Mosaic Covenant with Jeremiah’s “New Covenant” in Jeremiah 31:31-34, noting Ezekiel 36:26-27 and Romans 8:1-4.
5. Describe the three offices of prophet, priest and king in the Old Testament and how Jesus fulfilled each.
6. Explain how the Passover and the Exodus pointed to the work of Christ, making reference to the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16.
7. Explain the importance of the choice between rebellion or submission to the rule of God as it is displayed throughout the Old Testament...as a lesson book to all nations. (1 Cor. 10:6-11)
8. List some passages from Isaiah that point specifically to Jesus.

New Testament

1. What was the main “theme” of Jesus’ preaching?
2. Where do you find the Sermon on the Mount? What does Jesus speak about in the Sermon on the Mount? What is Jesus doing in the immediate context surrounding those three chapters among the people?
3. What is a parable? Why did Jesus speak in parables? (Give some examples)
4. Discuss how the ministry of Jesus revealed the clash between the kingdom of darkness and God’s kingdom of light, culminating at the cross.
5. Why is the resurrection and ascension of Jesus so essential to the Gospel message?
6. Discuss the pouring out of the Holy Spirit from heaven as promised on the disciples of Jesus and the beginning of the “church” in the book of Acts.
7. Give an example of a letter to a church or individual that Paul writes in the New Testament, and share the key message(s) of that letter.

8. What is the central message of the book of Revelation and how do you handle its interpretation for today?

Theology and Church History:

Church History

1. What were the doctrinal controversies of the first few centuries in the life of the church centered around concerning Christ? What was the outcome from the Councils?
2. Describe the condition of the church prior to the Reformation.
3. Explain briefly the biblical truths which became the hallmark of the Reformation: the Word alone, Grace alone, Christ alone, Faith alone.

The Word of God

1. Who is the source of all truth? What book has God created to reveal God's own nature and purposes to the world? Why is "special revelation" necessary?
2. What are the six major foci of theology as we study the Bible?
3. What do we mean by the "canon" of Scripture?
4. The books of the Old Testament were accepted by the Jews by 435 B.C. What do we mean by the "inspiration of Scripture" and how did Jesus testify to the inspiration of the Old Testament Scriptures?
5. How was the New Testament canon formed?
6. What are the four characteristics of Scripture? Quote II Timothy 3:16-17 and explain briefly what is meant by each of the four characteristics.
7. What do we mean by "inerrancy?" Do you believe it? How does the authority of Scripture test and shape your life and doctrine?

Theology Proper – the study of God

1. According to Romans 1:18-20, why don't all people believe in God naturally?
2. How does God reveal Himself in creation?

3. How can we know any truth about God?
4. What do we mean by the “incommunicable” attributes of God? Give some examples.
5. What do we mean by the “communicable” attributes of God? Give some examples.
6. Discuss what Scripture teaches about the nature of God as He exists in Tri-unity.
7. What was the main conclusion of the Nicene Creed?
8. What does the Bible teach concerning HOW God created?
9. Why did God create?
10. Why is the theory of evolution as it is taught by many today contrary to the teaching of Scripture?
11. Explain the relationship of God’s providence, the freedom of human’s will and the responsibility of human action or inaction. Refer to the ongoing debate between Arminianism and Calvinism.
12. Discuss God’s relationship to His creation.
13. Relate God’s providence to the existence of suffering and evil.
14. How does the revelation of God in Christianity differ in some key ways from major world religions like Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism?

Anthropology – the study of Humans

1. What is the image of God in humankind?
2. Explain the result of the fall, with respect to humankind made in the image of God and their relationship to God, the Creator.
3. Explain the doctrine of original sin. What do we mean by “total depravity?”
4. What is the “Adamic Covenant?”
5. Explain the “covenant of grace” that God made with Abraham.
6. What is the effect of God’s covenant of grace on mankind on a whole? On the “elect” in particular?

Christology – the study of the person and work of Jesus Christ

1. Discuss the person of Christ as to His human nature and His divine nature.
2. What is the “kenosis” theory of Philippians 2?
3. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be true man?
4. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be true God?
5. Was the virgin birth of Jesus necessary? Why or why not?
6. Why did the early church councils have more to do with the person of Christ than the work of Christ? How did a failure to understand the work of Christ affect the teaching of the church in the Middle Ages?
7. Discuss the doctrine of the “atonement,” including its necessity and nature.
8. **What did Jesus DO on the cross? What did He accomplish through His suffering on the cross? What do we mean by the vicarious / substitutionary atonement?**
9. Explain the EXTENT of the atonement.
10. What is the importance of Christ’s resurrection?
11. What is the significance of His ascension?
12. How did Jesus fulfill the Old Testament offices of Prophet, Priest and King?

Soteriology – the study of Redemption

1. Define “common grace.”
2. What does the Bible teach regarding “election?” How does it correlate with “predestination?”
3. What is the “ordo salutis?” Explain the steps.
4. Discuss regeneration – whose work is it and how does it affect those who are born again?
5. How do repentance and faith fit together?

6. Why is “justification” the central part of salvation? What does the Bible teach regarding justification? (include Scripture passages)
7. What is the role and works of the Person of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers?
8. Discuss the difference between “definitive” sanctification and “progressive” sanctification.
9. What does the Bible teach about the “gifts of the Spirit?”
10. Explain what the Bible teaches regarding the “perseverance of the saints.”
11. What happens to believers at death? Why is the biblical teaching concerning the resurrection of the dead so important?

Ecclesiology – the study of the Church

- 1. Define the nature of the church with respect to its members and its relationship with God.**
2. What do we in the Reformed churches consider to be the “marks” of the true church?
3. Discuss the purpose of the church from a biblical perspective. What are the priorities of the life of the church and what is the place of biblical preaching and teaching?
4. What is the basis for the true unity of the church?
5. How do you understand the “keys to the kingdom” which Christ gave to the church?
6. Describe biblical church government.
7. Explain the meaning and purpose of the sacraments of Baptism and the LORD’s Supper.
8. What is the “regulative principle” of worship? What are the elements of biblical worship?
9. What are “spiritual gifts?” How are they different from the “fruit of the Spirit?” How do they function within the church today?

Eschatology – the study of Last Things

1. Why is the return of Jesus necessary?
2. What is the end result of Jesus' return with regard to God, humanity and salvation?
3. Discuss the relationship of Israel and the church in God's plans for the future.
4. What does the Bible teach concerning the "Day of the LORD?"
5. What does the Bible teach concerning a "rapture" of the church? A millennium?
6. Explain what Jesus and writers of Scripture revealed concerning the final judgment of all mankind.
7. Discuss the eternal state of believers and unbelievers.
8. What does the Bible teach regarding a new heavens and a new earth?

Reformed/Biblical Confession and Practice

- 1. Name the confessions to which the Reformed Church subscribes.**
- 2. Give a brief summary of each.**
- 3. What is the place of the Book of Church Order in the life of the Church?**
4. Explain the biblical standard for corporate worship.
5. Contrast biblical church government with that practiced within the church at large today.
6. List some of the theological distinctions of the Reformed Church with respect to things such as the sacraments, the sovereignty of God and TULIP.
7. How do these distinctives affect our contact with the world and our interaction with the world in which we live?

Leadership

- 1. What place do the equipping leaders of Ephesians 4:11 have within the life of the church body?**
2. Describe the relationship of the "installed minister" of a church to the Consistory.

- 3. Outline an overall strategy for leadership in the church with respect to vision, change, evaluation and oversight.**
4. In what ways must a church leader address the culture in which she/he ministers?
5. Tell us about a relationship you salvaged after a conflict or falling out with the person.
6. If married, in what ways are your home and family integrated into ministry?
7. Tell us some ways in which you balance or manage the pressures of ministry?
8. In what ways have you contributed to the growth of the church, in spite of challenges and spiritual resistance?
9. How have you ministered in ways that improve the life of your city or community?
10. How have you developed and utilized the giftedness of others? How will you help raise up other leaders for ministry?
11. Share with us your personal mission statement?
12. When did failure or defeat get the best of you, and how did you make a “come back”?

Pastoral Care

1. Describe two of your past roles in offering comfort and hope to those facing the difficulties, trials and crises of life.
2. Relate a personal experience that has helped prepare you to walk alongside others.
- 3. What place does the Word of God have in the counsel you offer others?**
- 4. How do faith, forgiveness and a vital relationship with God through Jesus Christ form the necessary foundation for all pastoral care?**
5. Explain your own emotional involvement in counseling, comforting, encouraging or correcting others.
6. How can you improve your listening skills? (to the unchurched, to God, to your spouse or children if that applies, to other leaders)

7. How does Jesus model as the Good Shepherd in the Gospels teach you how to care for the harassed and helpless sheep, as described in the context of Matthew 9:35-10:8?
8. As a church leader, what is the relationship of prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit in your ministry?
9. Tell us about your rest and recreation patterns, and how that will be modeled in a healthy way to others?
10. Are there any unsolved conflicts in your circle of relationships right now?

Worship and Preaching

- 1. How often have you engaged in preaching the Word of God? In what contexts or circumstances?**
2. Explain your understanding as a messenger of the Gospel to be a “preacher.”
3. What is the purpose of preaching?
4. How do you preach and teach in the power of the Holy Spirit?
- 5. Describe the significant aspects of biblical worship, including the celebration of the sacraments.**
6. How does preaching both nurture and evangelize?
7. In what way is the Gospel proclaimed in every message?
8. In what ways do your present “preferences” in worship reflect biblical mandates for worship?