

## **Reformed Affirmations about Scriptural Authority**

Sometimes it's helpful to remember why we place such a premium upon what the Bible says. The following statements are found in various PC(USA) confessions about the authority and place of the Bible in our lives.

### **1. Scriptural authority is conferred by God and not by human opinion.**

#### **A. Scripture is received as authoritative because God is its author.**

*The Westminster Confession of Faith 6.004 (see also Second Helvetic Confession 5.001)*

#### **B. The written Word of God stands above all other sources of truth.**

*The Theological Declaration of Barmen 8.11-8.22*

#### **C. Because the church belongs to Jesus Christ, it is not free to abandon its message to suit its own pleasure or to conform to prevailing opinions.**

*The Theological Declaration of Barmen 8.17-8.18*

### **2. Scripture is authoritative over all aspects of our life.**

*The Theological Declaration of Barmen 8.14-8.15*

### **3. Scripture is the infallible rule of faith and practice.**

*The Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 6.005*

*Larger Catechism, Question 3. 7.113*

### **4. The true meaning of Scripture can be understood a) by ordinary people of faith b) only through the work of the Holy Spirit.**

#### **A. Both scholars and unlearned folk can understand Scripture through ordinary means because the Scripture makes clear all that is necessary for salvation.**

*The Westminster Confession of Faith 6.007*

#### **B. The true understanding of Scripture is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.**

*The Westminster Confession of Faith 6.005*