



# Highland Park

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Elder Training



# Essential Tenets



**Week 1: Why Essentials, God's Word, Two Central Mysteries (I & II)**

**Week 2: Salvation and Covenant Life in the Church (III A, B, C)**

**Week 3: Church Leadership, Whole Life Ministry, Obedience (III D & E)**



# Essential Tenets



“I’m beautiful in my way  
‘Cause God makes no mistakes  
I’m on the right track baby  
I was born this way”

Based on the Essential Tenets regarding creation and sin, do you agree with this lyric?

**A. God’s Grace in Christ**



# Essential Tenets

## Creation



“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.”  
(Gen. 1:31)

## A. God's Grace in Christ



# Essential Tenets

## Creation



## A. God's Grace in Christ



# Essential Tenets SIN/THE FALL



“Man, **the world ain’t supposed to work like this.** Maybe you don’t know that, but this ain’t the way it’s supposed to be. I’m supposed to be able to do my job without askin’ you if I can. And that dude is supposed to be able to wait with his car without you rippin’ him off. **Everything’s supposed to be different than what it is here.**”

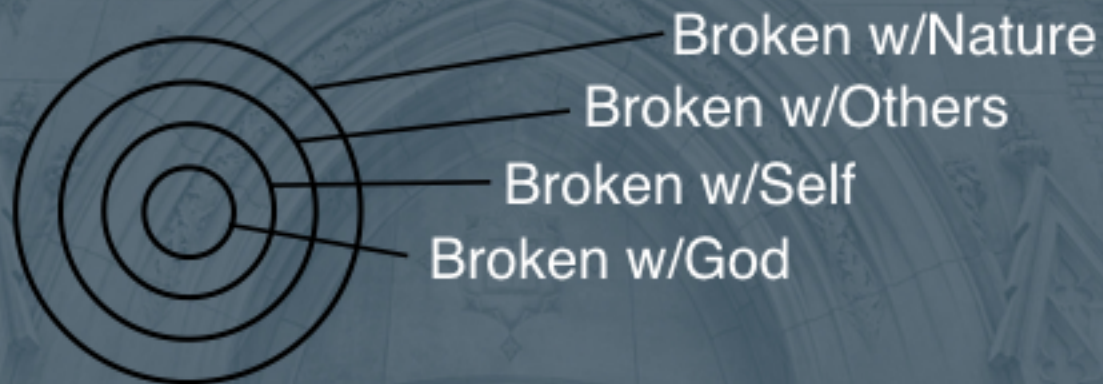
## A. God’s Grace in Christ



# Essential Tenets

## SIN/THE FALL

Consequences of Sin =  
Broken Relationships



**A. God's Grace in Christ**



# Essential Tenets

Salvation in Christ

## The Great Exchange

Jesus

Innocence  
Perfect Obedience  
Glory



Us

Treason  
Blasphemy  
Punishment

**A. God's Grace in Christ**





# Essential Tenets

“Isn’t it intolerant, even arrogant, to say that Jesus is the only way to salvation? What about people of other religions? What about good people who have no religion?”

Based on the Essential Tenets, how would you respond to this statement?

**A. God’s Grace in Christ**



# Essential Tenets

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

“Salvation is found in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

## A. God's Grace in Christ



# Essential Tenets

Two people hear the same gospel. One responds in faith and the other doesn't.

According to the Essential Tenets, why, ultimately, does someone come to faith in Jesus?

**B. Election for Salvation and Service**



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Problem

- Original Sin
- Natural Ability

## The Extent of the Solution

- Divine Intervention
- Divine Election

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Problem: *Original Sin*

Romans 5 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as **sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—**

<sup>17</sup>For if, **because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man**, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

## **B. Election for Salvation and Service**



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Problem: *Original Sin*

Ephesians 2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>And **you were dead in trespasses and sins** <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind.

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Problem: *Original Sin*

Psalm 51 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup>Behold, **I was brought forth in iniquity**, and **in sin did my mother conceive me.**

## **B. Election for Salvation and Service**



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Problem: *Natural Ability*

Romans 3 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup>What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, <sup>10</sup>as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

<sup>11</sup>no one understands;

**no one seeks for God.**

<sup>12</sup>All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; **no one does good**, not even one.”

## B. Election for Salvation and Service





# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Problem: *Natural Ability*

Colossians 2 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup>And you, **who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh**, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Problem: *Natural Ability*

Romans 8 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on **the flesh is hostile to God**, for it **does not submit to God's law**; indeed, **it cannot**. <sup>8</sup>**Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Solution: *Divine Intervention*

John 6 (ESV)

<sup>44</sup>“No one can come to me **unless the Father who sent me draws him**. And I will raise him up on the last day.

<sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup>And he said,

“This is why I told you that **no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.**”

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Solution: *Divine Intervention*

2 Corinthians 4 (NASB)

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has **blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For **God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Solution: *Divine Intervention*

John 3 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God...<sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, '**You must be born again.**'<sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

1 John 5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>**Everyone who believes** that Jesus is the Christ **has been born of God.**

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Solution: *Divine Intervention*

Acts 16 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup>One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. **The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.**

<sup>15</sup>And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Solution: *Divine Election*

Romans 9

<sup>14</sup>What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! <sup>15</sup>For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

<sup>16</sup>So then **it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.**

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Solution: *Divine Election*

Ephesians 1 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>**he predestined us for adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will**.

## B. Election for Salvation and Service





# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Solution: *Divine Election*

Acts 13 (ESV)

<sup>48</sup>And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of God. And **as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.**

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

## The Extent of the Solution: *Divine Election*

Matthew 11 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;** <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for **such was your gracious will.** <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and **no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.** <sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

## B. Election for Salvation and Service



# Essential Tenets

“Having lost true freedom of the will in the fall, we are incapable of turning toward God of our own volition. God chooses us for Himself in face before the foundation of the world, not because of any merit on our part, but only because of His love and mercy.”

**What difference does it make to believe that our faith itself is a gift of God?**

**That God elects, awakens, and draws to faith those he has chosen to save?**

**B. Election for Salvation and Service**



# Essential Tenets

“I prefer to share my faith through how I live not through proselytizing. As Francis Assisi said, ‘share the gospel at all times; if necessary, use words.’”

As D.L. Moody once said, “the world is a sinking ship, and God has given me a lifeboat to save all I can.” Why bother fixing up a sinking ship when what matters is saving souls?

Based on the Essential Tenets, how would you respond to these two statements?

## **B. Election for Salvation and Service**



# Essential Tenets



Based on the Essential Tenets, how would you respond to this racially divided reality in the American Church?

What are the implications for HP Pres and our future ministry?

## C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets

## Revelation 7

<sup>9</sup>There before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.



## C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets

According to the Essential Tenets, what are the three “marks of the church” also known as “the means of grace”?

**C. Covenant Life in the Church**



# Essential Tenets

1. Preaching of the Word - “the word proclaimed may indeed become God’s address to us.”
2. **Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper**
3. Discipline - “The community of the Church practices discipline to help one another along the path to new life.”

## C. Covenant Life in the Church





# Essential Tenets



And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."  
(Luke 22:19)



Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19)

## C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets



**Sacrament =  
Sign and Seal of the Gospel Promises**



## C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets

**“In the sacraments we don’t receive a different gospel,  
but we receive the gospel in a different way.”**

**- Charles Spurgeon**



## C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets



What does baptism signify?

## C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets

## BAPTISM

**Roman  
Catholic**

You are regenerate  
because we baptize  
you.

**Baptist**

We baptize you  
because you are  
regenerate.

### C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets

## BAPTISM

Roman  
Catholic

You are regenerate  
because we baptize  
you.

~~INTERNALLY FOCUSED~~

Baptist

We baptize you  
because you are  
regenerate.

### C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets

## BAPTISM

Reformed



Baptism is an external sign of the Gospel promises, which the Holy Spirit makes internally effective in regeneration.

**Roman Catholic**

You are regenerate because we baptize you.

**Baptist**

We baptize you because you are regenerate.

## C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets

## Why Infant Baptism?

Throughout the Bible, whenever God makes a covenant (promise) with his people, he gives the sign of that promise both to believers and their children. The new covenant promises are not less inclusive, but more so! We administer baptism, the sign of the promises of the Gospel, and the mark of entry into the visible Church community, **to both believers AND to their children**. We hope and pray that by the work of the Holy Spirit, the children will one day grow up to trust in those promises for themselves.

## C. Covenant Life in the Church





# Essential Tenets

## Why Infant Baptism?

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The **promise is for you and your children** and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:38-39

## C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets



What does the Lord's Supper signify?

**C. Covenant Life in the Church**



# Essential Tenets



## Roman Catholic

The bread and wine become Jesus' body and blood.  
(Transubstantiation)

## Baptist

The bread and wine are simply a memorial of Jesus' body and blood.  
(Memorial)

## C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets

## Reformed



Communion is both a memorial AND a means by which we Spiritually commune with the resurrected Christ.

### ~~Roman Catholic~~

~~The bread and wine become Jesus' body and blood.  
(Transubstantiation)~~



### Baptist

The bread and wine are simply a memorial of Jesus' body and blood.  
(Memorial)

## C. Covenant Life in the Church



# Essential Tenets

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in **remembrance of me.**” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in **remembrance of me.**” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Cor. 11:23-26

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a **participation in the blood** of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a **participation in the body** of Christ?

1 Cor. 10:16

## C. Covenant Life in the Church