

# Getting to Know Us

Protestant Reformed Fellowship of Pittsburgh

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This is NOT your typical Church.

Most churches look at you as the consumer and Jesus as the product. They figure if they give you fast and easy answers coupled with a flashy show then they will win bigger crowds at their church.

Most of the time they are right.

Other churches use tradition and ritual to make you think religion is just a ceremony or "something you grow up doing." They do not teach you the Bible and do not answer your questions. Instead, they tell you to leave the thinking up to them.

For both of these types of churches the cost is truth. These churches often do not try to expound what the Bible says. And when churches do not teach what the Bible says, the people end up receiving no comfort in the troubles of life and no answers to the real questions they have.

This church, however, realizes that all our joy is in knowing and delighting in the true God who is greater than ourselves. We believe that if the teaching of Scripture is compromised you won't really know God. So this church teaches, and it teaches through the preaching of the Gospel. We won't give you a stage show at this church. Rather than bands and dancing or incense and robes, we teach. And we teach what the church has always taught: Jesus Christ.

We do not compromise what the Bible says; in fact, if you find something we teach that disagrees with the Bible, we expect you to tell us.

Nor do we compromise Christianity to win big crowds. That is because Christianity isn't about popularity or fame. It's about God and you. We know the Bible gives true and satisfying answers to the great questions of life. We know who Jesus was and is, so we will tell you about him. And we will love like he loves—unconditionally, uncompromisingly, and not just with a hug on Sunday morning.

We have a pastor trained in the original languages of the Bible, gifted with both a mind after God and a heart after God—a man who studies and works hard to know God and to know life as we all face it. Our pastor does his work differently. He is not a businessman; he is a shepherd. Thus, he will spend time with you, teach you, personally care for you, answer your questions, and love you with a deep and sustained love.

We believe the Bible and message of Jesus Christ taught in historic Christianity—although not all that popular these days—is the only thing that provides comfort in this life. It is a biting message sometimes, and some may even find it offensive. But it is a comfort

to those who seek true comfort. And if there is anything we need in this day and age, it is comfort.

Are you looking for real answers to real questions? Are you looking for truth and not religion as a drug to distract from real life? If so, please come spend some time with us.

We're not perfect—in fact we're sinners, total sinners without the grace of God. But in Christ we,

and all the true church the world over, are saved by grace. And that's why we can care for you.

***... if the teaching of Scripture is compromised, you won't really know God ... We won't give you a stage show at this church. Rather than bands and dancing or incense and robes, we teach. And we teach what the church has always taught: Jesus Christ.***

# Getting to Know Our Denomination

The Protestant Reformed Fellowship of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is associated with the Protestant Reformed Churches of America (PRC). **The PRC is a denomination of churches that seek above all to honor God by teaching what He has set forth in his Word, the Bible.** These churches teach the HISTORIC CHRISTIAN FAITH—the faith that the Reformation taught, the early church taught, the apostle's taught, and Jesus taught. Protestant Reformed Churches do not claim to have any special or new insight. They do not claim to be the only ones who teach truth. They do not claim to have been given visions or to have a ruler who is himself the mouthpiece of Christ. They just teach the truth of the Bible because the Bible is the voice of Jesus Christ. The PRC believes Jesus himself is the head of His church, and He rules his church by His teaching in the Bible.

The PRC was formed in 1924 when the denomination they were a part of started to teach the doctrine of a resistible grace of God offered in the preaching of the gospel. The PRC maintains that God's grace is irresistible since God is sovereign in all of salvation. He saves by His mighty power and will preserve his people in that salvation into eternity.

The PRC highly values the scriptural teaching of the covenant. **The covenant is the center of religion and the center of our hope. The covenant is God's living relationship of friendship and love between himself and his people.** All the teaching of the Bible can be summed up by saying it is teaching concerning the covenant. The entire Bible is about God's establishment of this relationship with man. It is about the history of that relationship; it is about our failure in that relationship; and it is about the basis for that relationship—Jesus Christ and the cross.

**The PRC highly values marriage and the family.** They believe American society and many American churches have neglected the Bible's teaching on marriage. American society and American churches are reaping the consequences. Tolerance of the sins of homosexuality, pervasive pornography, sexual immorality, and divorce and remarriage can all be traced back to one's view of family and home-life. We believe the God-given means of raising children in the love

of God is a man and a woman committed to each other for life. We know husbands and wives sin against each other. But just as Jesus Christ is faithful to us even though we sin against him, we believe spouses ought to be faithful to each other for life. When this does not happen the church falls to pieces and society begins to crumble. The PRC is a place for family. And since it is a place for committed family relationships, it is necessarily a place of forgiveness. We all fail in life and we all sin with regard to sexual purity and faithfulness. Praise God there is forgiveness and redemption in Christ! Praise God there is renewal of life and broken situations in the power of His Spirit!

The PRC is a Reformed church. This means the PRC identify themselves with the 16th century Reformation of the Christian church. The Reformation broke away from those who taught that the church has more authority than the Bible, and who because of this have become caught up in rituals, traditions, and teachings that are contrary to the Bible. The PRC oppose this because this type of "religion" gives no real answers to the people and misrepresents God. The PRC (and other Reformed churches) simply teach the Bible.



**In a world where everyone thinks there is no such thing as truth, the PRC loudly, boldly, and lovingly conveys the message that there is One God, One truth, One love, One hope, and One way: Jesus Christ.** If you are confused about life, religion, or the hopelessness of your future, come hear the message that has been the Message from the beginning (we know it's old, but it is still the message of God and it is the answer for our lives), the message of Jesus Christ and the true good news of salvation in his blood. **It is TRUTH, and you can rest your weary soul upon it.**

Whether you're married or single, rich or poor, confident or self-conscious, friendly or shy, fulfilled or lonely, you have the same need as everyone else—you're a sinner before a great and amazing God. You have guilt that you try to forget about but can't. What will you do with it? Hear Jesus call: **"Come to me all you that labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest."**