

**“What it means to be Reformed”; Session # 8 - “Sola Gratia – Making a Public Declaration of Faith”, Prepared for the Adult Sunday School class on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, by Pastor Paul Rendall.**

**A Person who is Reformed in their theology and practice understands the great need of understanding conversion to Christ, to a person’s being able to live the Christian life.**

**There are 5 steps in the conversion and subsequent obedience of every Christian** which honor God and which are regulated by His Word, and which lead every sincere believer to desire to be baptized and to join the local church which is honoring God’s Word:

**(1) Coming to know the Inward Reality of Faith, because the gospel has been believed by you.** John 3: 3-8 1st Peter 3: 18-22 1 Corinthians 12: 12-14

**(2) Your Reception of Christ as your Savior by Faith – gives you power to obey His Word.** Christ has changed and is changing our life, and we now want to join the church and publicly be recognized as Christ’s disciple.

John 1: 12 and 13 Acts 9: 26, 27

**(3) Your understanding the Meaning of Baptism, gives you assurance.** We are united together with Christ in the Likeness of His death, burial, and resurrection.

Romans 6: 1-11

**(4) The Public Declaration of your Faith before the Church and other witnesses –** This sets the stage for our being formally brought into the church which we can identify with theologically and practically.

Acts 2: 40-42 Acts 9: 26-28 Psalm 66: 16 and 17

**(5) Your actually joining this local church which is teaching you the way of truth;** learning to receive and submit to God’s Word and participating in the ordinances and which Christ has given to His Church.

Acts 16: 15 1st Corinthians 11: 17-34 Hebrews 10: 23-25 2nd Timothy 4: 1-5, and 14-16

Hebrews 13: 17