

Inquirers' Class

The following visuals correspond to each of the seven classes conducted by Rev. Terry Johnson. All booklets referenced in the lessons can be found at www.reformationtoday.org. All books authored by Rev. Johnson are available in the IPC Bookshop at 207 Bull Street, Savannah GA 31401.

SESSION #1

Inquirers' Calendar of Events

This course is designed to introduce you to the history, doctrine, practice, and people of our church. We trust that it will prove to be challenging and edifying for you. Because we are unable to hold classes on site due to the pandemic, all resources for the course are available here.

The course consists of the following elements:

1. **Instructions** – Watch/listen to each of the seven sessions (video or audio). Pick up a binder with notetaking pages (at IPC administration building/office) or use these visuals as you follow along with Rev. Johnson's lessons.
2. **Interview with Rev. Johnson** – If you desire church membership, schedule an appointment through Karen Hansill at the church office, 421-8100 or khansill@ipcsav.org;
3. **Interview with Session** – 10:30 AM (2nd floor, administration building) on the Sunday morning in which you are joining IPC;
4. **Vows** before congregation – On the Sunday you join, 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

Non-Communing Children of IPC:

You are not required to take this class in order to join the church. However, many of our baptized youth have found it helpful to attend before making a profession of faith. Your path to joining is slightly different.

Items # 2 & 3 are as follows:

2. Interview with committee made up of a minister, your Sunday School teacher, and your Care Group elder.
3. Interview with Session as appointed. We will need to schedule this.

Communing Children of Inquirers:

If your children receive communion, we would advise that you bring them to the Inquirers' Class. Then, if you join, they may join with you as communing members.

SESSION #1

Inquirers' Class Outline

- Session 1 Church Membership**

- Session 2 Mission & History of the Church**

- Session 3 The Evangelical Faith**

- Session 4 The Reformed & Presbyterian Faith**

- Session 5 Worship and Sacraments**

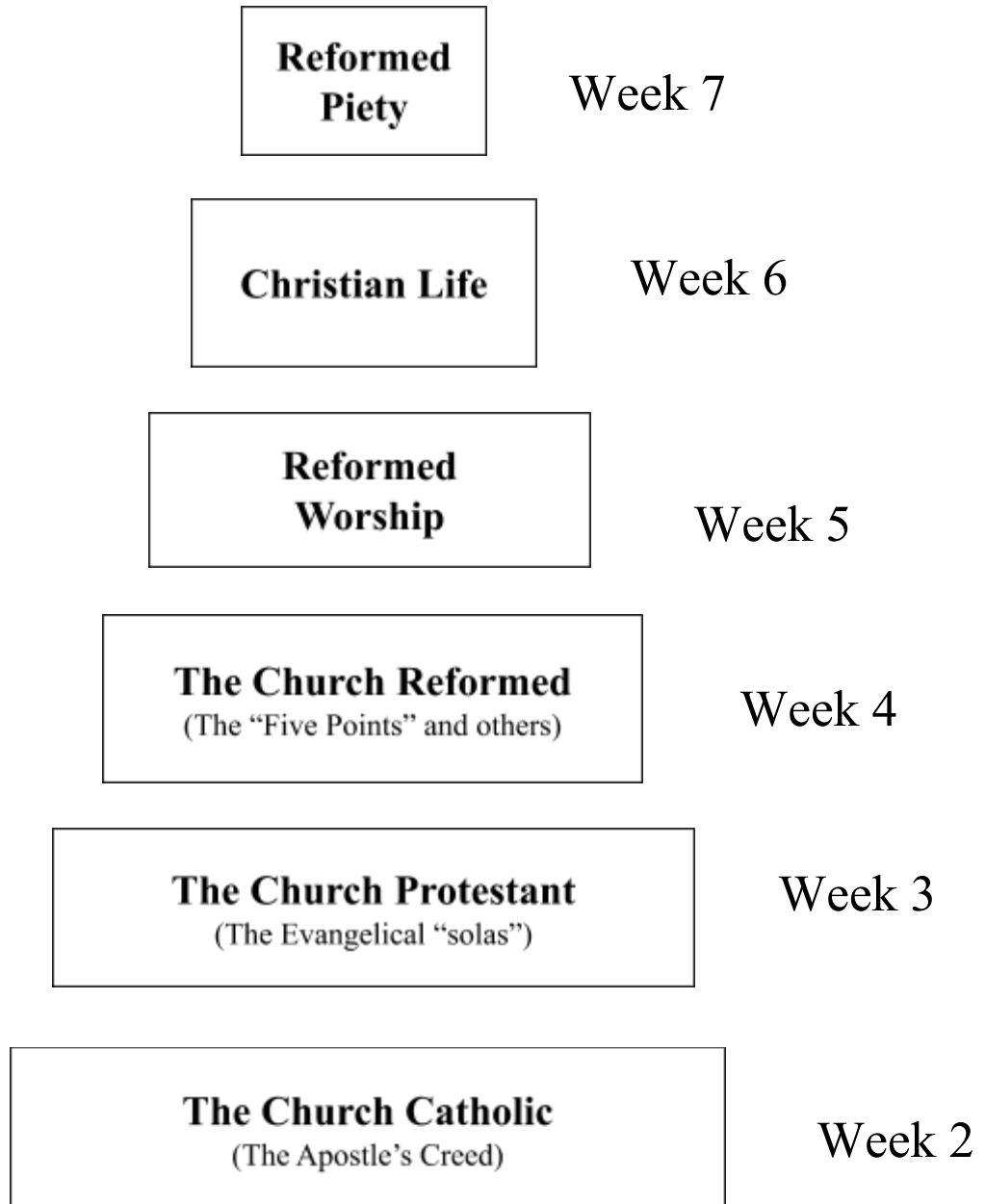
- Session 6 The Christian Life**

- Session 7 The Nurturing of Christian Piety**

- Interview with Session/Join IPC (date to be determined)**

SESSION #1

Reformed Protestantism



Our Pyramid of Truth

“I’m first a Christian, next a catholic, then a Calvinist, fourth a paedobaptist, and fifth a Presbyterian. I cannot reverse this order.” — John “Rabbi” Duncan (1796-1870)

SESSION #1

Inquirers’ Class Supplemental Reading List

1. **History of the Church**

Carlson, *Our Presbyterian Heritage*

Hannula, *Trial and Triumph, Stories from Church History*

Houghton, *Sketches from Church History*

Noll, *Turning Points, Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*

Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*

2. **Apostles' Creed**

J. I. Packer, *Growing in Christ*

Horton, *We Believe: Recovering the Essentials of the Apostles’ Creed*

Sproul, *Renewing Your Mind: Basic Christian Beliefs You Need to Know*

McGrath, *“I Believe”: Exploring the Apostles’ Creed*

3. **Evangelical Christianity**

Blanchard, *Right With God*

Stott, *Basic Christianity*

Bainton, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*

T. L. Johnson, *The Case for Traditional Protestantism* *corresponds with Session 3

4. **The Reformed and Presbyterian Faith**

Dewitt, *The Reformed Faith*

Palmer, *Five Points of Calvinism*

Packer, *Introductory Essay to John Owens' "The Death of Death in the Death of Christ"*

Sproul, *Chosen by God*

T. L. Johnson, *When Grace Comes Home* *corresponds with Session 4

5. **Worship and Sacraments**

Tozer, *The Missing Jewel of Evangelicalism*

F. A. Schaeffer, *Baptism*

Murray, *Christian Baptism*

Olds, *Worship That Is Reformed According to Scripture*

T. L. Johnson, *Reformed Worship, Worshipping with Calvin, Serving with Calvin*
*correspond with Session 5

6. **Ethics**

Pink, *The Ten Commandments*

Packer, *Growing in Christ*

Murray, *Principles of Conduct*

T. L. Johnson, *When Grace Transforms* *corresponds with Session 6

7. **Christian Mission**

Metzger, *Tell the Truth*

Chantry, *Today's Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic?*

8. **Membership**

“Who We Are” (IPC booklet at www.reformationtoday.org)

9. **The Nurturing of Christian Piety**

M'Cheynes, *Calendar for Daily Readings* (in binder)

First Mornings with God (InterVarsity Press “Basic Christian Life” Booklet #9)

Seven Minutes with God (Navigators)

Johnson, *The Family Worship Book* *corresponds with Session 7

Johnson, *When Grace Comes Alive* *corresponds with Session 7

In addition to the above, the *Shorter Catechism* should also be read during our time together.

You may also consult IPC church booklets at www.reformationtoday.org.

“The Evangelical & Reformed Faith”

“The Five Points of Calvinism”

“The Church As It Was Meant to Be”

SESSION #1

Inquirers’ Class

Public Profession of Faith and Solemn Covenant with God and His Church

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him *alone* for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

4. Do you promise to serve Christ in His church by supporting and participating in its worship and work to the best of your ability?

5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church and promise to further its purity and peace?

SESSION #1

IPC Activities Calendar

Locations or changes for all events are listed in the weekly Messenger and bulletin, subject to cancellation or change

Weekly

Worship Services:

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary/livestreamed
	11:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary/livestreamed
	5:15 p.m.	Pre-service singing in Sanctuary
	5:30 p.m.	Worship in Sanctuary/livestreamed
	6:40 p.m.	Dinner/Fellowship
Wednesday	11:45-12:50	Bible Study in Sanctuary

Bible Studies:

Tuesday	7:30 p.m.	Garner Bible Study (adults)
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Tuesday Morning Bible Studies (women)
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	IPC Career/Twenties on site

Prayer Meetings:

Tuesday	6:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Wednesday	10:45 a.m.	Women's Intercessor Group

Choirs:

Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir (H.S. – adults)
	6:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir (adults)
Sunday	10:10 a.m.	Seraph /Cherub Choirs (4-5 yr. olds)

4:00 p.m. Youth Choir (6th-12th grades)
7:00 p.m. Chapel Choir (2nd-5th grades)

Youth:

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. H.S. Youth Dinner
7:00 p.m. H.S. Youth Bible Study
Sunday 7:00 p.m. H.S. Small groups
7:00 p.m. M.S. Emmaus Road

Monthly

Communion First Sunday of each month
Session 5:30 p.m. Next to last Monday
Diaconate 6:00 p.m. Next to last Monday

Women of the Church Circles

2nd Tuesday 10:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning
1st Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Tuesday Evening
2nd Thursday 10:30 a.m. Thursday Morning

Nursery Moms Together Second Friday, 9-11AM

Yearly

January:

Third Sunday Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

February:

Second Sunday Georgia Heritage Sunday
Third Sunday Annual Congregational Meeting

February:

World Missions Conference

April:

Maundy Thursday Service of
Lessons & Psalms
Saturday Pancakes & Egg Hunt

May:

Last Sunday Church Wide Bar-B-Q (Memorial Day Weekend)

August:

Annual Communion Season

September:

First Sunday Low Country Boil (Labor Day Weekend)

October:

Last Sunday Reformation Sunday
October 31 Family Night

December:

Third Sunday Service of Lessons & Carols
 Christmas Eve Service

SESSION #1

Independent Presbyterian Church
Pastoral Team

Pastors

Terry Johnson Senior Minister

Ron Parrish Senior Associate Minister:
 *visitation
 *adult education

Tim Foster Associate Minister:
 *preaching
 *counseling

Tim Shaw Associate Minister:

*post-college/career

Evan Gear

Assistant Minister:

*college

Directors

Paul Rodgers

Director of Youth & Family

Frankie Daniell

Director of Camps & Missions

Josh Espinosa

Director of Administration

Jacob Fuhrman

Director of Music

Alex Sutherland

Ministry Intern

Brock Garrigan

Ministry Intern

Part-time

Tracy Wood

Director of Children's Program

Jane Boatright

Director of Nursery

Tricia Barrett

Women of the Church Team

Linda DePue

Women of the Church Team

Terri Fruit

Women of the Church Team

Tevis Garnett

Women of the Church Team

Allison Kelly

Women of the Church Team

IPC Session – Spiritual Needs

Christian Education
Youth, College, and Career
Congregational Growth and Care
Missions
Financial and Administrative
Personnel

IPC Diaconate – Material Needs

Hospitality

Worship assistance
Maintenance
Mercy
Stewardship
Safety/Security

IPC Trustees – Secular Assets

Sunday School

I. Children through College

Nursery (birth – 3)

Children

Youth (middle-high school)

College

II. Adult

New Covenant (20's)

Bereans (30's)

Emmaus (40's)

Agape (50's)

Garmer (60's →)

SESSION #1

Who We Are

(See booklets, “Who We Are” and “Our Order of Service” at www.reformationtoday.org)

I. Independent

1. No denominational affiliation
2. Independent since 1755

II. Presbyterian

1. Reformed heritage
2. Not “fundamentalist”

3. Not charismatic

III. Church

1. Tasks: worship & witness
2. Let the church be the church

IV. Why Us?

1. Learn the Bible
2. Family support
3. Meaningful worship

SESSION #2

The Catholicity of the Church: Church History

Modern man is guilty of "chronological arrogance," says C. S. Lewis. The illusion of "progress" leads many to conclude that there is nothing to be learned from the past. Never in history have traditional ideas and values been held in such universal contempt as today, and, one might add, such disastrous results. Moral, spiritual, and social chaos are the legacy of a people who presume that the wisdom of the ages, the lessons of history, may be safely ignored.

Against the "spirit of the age," the church stands unapologetically upon the shoulders of the Apostles, Prophets, the Church Fathers, the great Councils, and

centuries of collective wisdom. Through 20 centuries of time the church has grown from a small band in Palestine to a fellowship numbering in the billions found in every corner of this planet. Upon the anvil of history it has hammered out its beliefs and practices. We are the heirs of their efforts, learning and benefiting from both their mistakes as well as successes.

It is hoped that by this introduction to church history you will receive a measure of both wisdom and encouragement, as we see how God has fulfilled His promise to lead His people into "all truth," even as He has led them into "all the world."

SESSION #2

Church History

I. Early Church (30-325)

II. Late Antiquity (325-500)

III. Middle Ages – Renaissance (500-1500)

IV. Reformation (1500 -1662)

V. Enlightenment (1662 - present)

SESSION #3

Protestantism: The “Solas”

(See booklet “An Evangelical & Reformed Faith,” pp 1-17 at www.reformationtoday.org;
or see *The Case for Traditional Protestantism*, all.)

I. Scripture Alone

1. Inspired
2. Inerrant

3. Authoritative
4. Clear
5. Complete

II. **Christ Alone**

1. One Savior
2. One Sacrifice
3. One Mediator

III. **Faith Alone**

1. Faith, not works
2. Justification
3. Knowledge, Assent, Trust
4. Works flow from faith; are the fruit of faith; are necessary, not meritorious

IV. **Grace Alone**

1. Faith is a gift
2. God initiates our salvation

V. **God's Glory Alone**

1. This is the motive behind the other *solas*
2. This is our aim

SESSION #4

Reformed and Presbyterian Distinctives

(See booklets “An Evangelical & Reformed Faith,” pp 19-32; “The Five Points of Calvinism.” at www.reformationtoday.org)

I. **Reformed in Doctrine**

1. *Sovereignty* of God
2. “*Five Points*” of Calvinism
3. *Covenant* theology and unity of the Bible

II. **Reformed in Worship**

1. Worship “*according to Scripture*”
2. Covenantal understanding of the *sacraments*

III. **Reformed in Piety**

1. Distinction between *justification and sanctification*
2. “Third use” of the *law*
3. *Ordinary means* of grace: public, private, and family worship

IV. **Reformed in Church Government**

1. *Representative* government
2. *Gathered* church
3. Church *discipline*

SESSION #5

Reformed Protestantism: Worship and Sacraments¹

¹ See *Reformed Worship* and/or *Contemporary Worship; Worshipping with Calvin*; see also booklet “The Church As It Was Meant to Be” at www.reformationtoday.org.

I. **Biblical case**

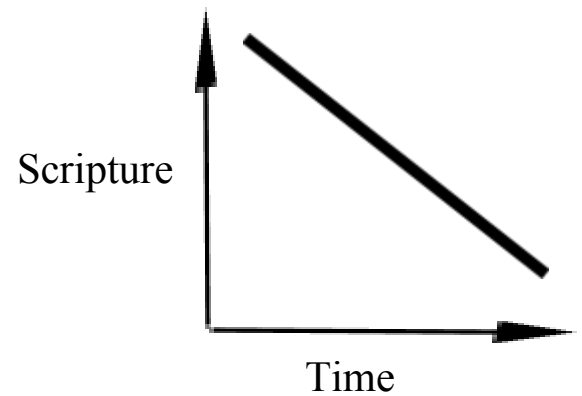
1. John 4:7-24
2. Acts 2:42

II. **Theological Case**

1. *Solus Christus*
2. *Sola Fide*
3. *Sola Scriptura*
4. *Sola gratia*
5. *Soli Deo Gloria*

III. **Practical Case**

1. Psalm-singing
2. Biblical preaching
3. Reading
4. Prayer
5. Sacraments



Public Prayer “Full Diet”

I. **Praise**

II. Confession of sin

III. Thanksgiving

IV. Intercession

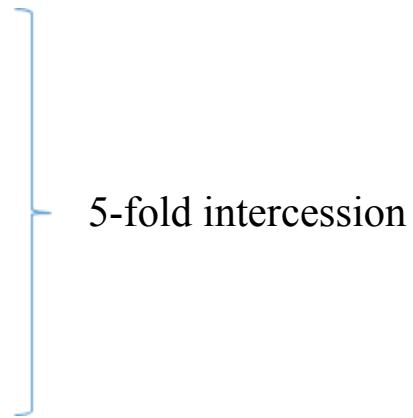
1. Sanctification of the saints

2. Church and its ministry

3. Sick

4. Civil authorities

5. Christian Mission



V. Illumination

VI. Benediction

SESSION #6

The Christian Life²

I. Its beginning: the grace of God

1. *Duplex gratia*

2. Sanctification follows justification

3. Sanctification requires effort

II. Its power: the Spirit of God

III. Its standard: the law of God

IV. Its aim: the glory of God

² See Johnson, *When Grace Comes Home* and *When Grace Transforms*.

SESSION #7

Reformed Protestantism: The Nurturing of Christian Piety³

I. The Family Pew

1. AM & PM attendance
2. The ordinary means of grace
3. The Christian Sabbath
4. Children

II. The Family Altar

1. Public & family worship reinforce each other
2. Daily family worship
3. Psalm/hymn of the month
4. Catechizing

³ See booklets “The Nurturing of Christian Piety” and “The Shorter Catechism” at www.reformationtoday.org; see also *The Family Worship Book*, pp 1-21.

III. Personal Devotions⁴

- 1. Bible (M'Cheyne's Calendar for Daily Readings)**
- 2. Prayer ("7 Minutes with God")**

⁴ Resources available at IPC church office.

