

The Reformed Faith

Week 6 - Held By God

Study Text - John 10:22-30

What We Believe

1. What is the Feast of Dedication? What does it commemorate?
2. The Jews asked Jesus if he was the Christ. What is *the Christ*?
3. What are the characteristics of Jesus' sheep? What does Jesus give his sheep?

Who can take his gift away?

4. Why is Jesus so sure his sheep won't be lost?

What extraordinary claim does Jesus make in verse 30?

Relevant Cross References for John 10:22-30

John 10:22 - Acts 5:12

John 10:25 - John 5:43

John 10:26 - John 8:47

John 10:27 - John 10:14-16

John 10:28 - John 6:37

John 10:29 - John 6:37, 14:28, 17:2, Deuteronomy 32:39, Isaiah 51:16

Reformed Theologians - John Wycliffe

John Wycliffe (c. 1320–1384), an English theologian and Oxford scholar, laid groundwork for the Reformation. Known as the “Morning Star of the Reformation,” he criticized Catholic Church abuses, including indulgences and papal authority, advocating for Scripture's supreme authority (*sola scriptura*). Wycliffe translated the Bible into English, making it accessible to laypeople, a radical act emphasizing personal faith. His teachings on predestination and the priesthood of all believers influenced later reformers like Jan Hus and Martin Luther. Despite posthumous condemnation as a heretic by the Catholic church, Wycliffe's ideas on biblical authority and church reform shaped Reformed theology's emphasis on Scripture, faith, and rejection of ecclesiastical corruption.

Creeds and Confessions - The Heidelberg Catechism

The Heidelberg Catechism, composed in 1563 in Heidelberg, Germany, by theologians Zacharias Ursinus and Caspar Olevianus, was commissioned by Elector Frederick III to unify Reformed teaching. Structured in 129 questions and answers, it covers the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and sacraments, emphasizing human sin, redemption through Christ, and gratitude for salvation. Its warm, pastoral tone made it widely adopted. In the Christian Reformed Church in North

America (CRCNA), it is a confessional standard alongside the Belgic Confession and Canons of Dort, used in preaching, catechesis, and worship to guide doctrine and foster spiritual growth.

What is “Perseverance of the Saints?” - A Petal of the TULIP

The Reformed doctrine of perseverance of the saints, the final petal in the TULIP acronym, asserts that those whom God has truly saved will endure in faith until the end. TULIP, summarizing the five points of Calvinism from the Synod of Dort (1618–1619), begins with Total Depravity (humanity’s utter sinfulness), Unconditional Election (God’s sovereign choice), Limited Atonement (Christ’s death for the elect alone), and Irresistible Grace (God’s call that cannot be resisted by the chosen). Perseverance of the saints builds on these, teaching that genuine believers cannot lose their salvation. It is not mere human effort but God’s preserving power that sustains faith amid trials. As Philippians 1:6 states, “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.” This doctrine counters Arminian views of conditional security, emphasizing assurance for the elect while warning against presumption. Critics argue it promotes antinomianism, but Reformed theologians like John Calvin clarify it fosters holy living as evidence of true faith. Ultimately, it glorifies God’s faithfulness, ensuring the elect’s eternal security through divine sovereignty.

Catechism Corner - Canons of Dort 1st Article 11-12

Article 11: Election Unchangeable

Just as God is most wise, unchangeable, all-knowing, and almighty, so the election made by him can neither be suspended nor altered, revoked, or annulled; neither can God’s chosen ones be cast off, nor their number reduced.

Article 12: The Assurance of Election

Assurance of their eternal and unchangeable election to salvation is given to the chosen in due time, though by various stages and in differing measure. Such assurance comes not by inquisitive searching into the hidden and deep things of God, but by noticing within themselves, with spiritual joy and holy delight, the unmistakable fruits of election pointed out in God’s Word—such as a true faith in Christ, a childlike fear of God, a godly sorrow for their sins, a hunger and thirst for righteousness, and so on.

God Speaks to Us

1. Have you ever been concerned that you might lose your salvation?
Have you overcome that fear? If so, how?
2. If God saves us and will never let us go, then why should we do good works?

God Speaks to Our Family

1. Jesus says in verse 25 that his works bear witness to who he is. What do our works say about us?
2. How does God the Father act like a Father in our text? How did Jesus act like a son?

God Speaks in Worship

1. How do you hear Jesus' voice? How do you know it's Jesus' voice?
2. The role of Christ is to be a prophet, priest, and king. If we're to look like Jesus, how are we to be prophets, priests, and kings?

The Gospel Call

1. In verse 26 Jesus says the Jews do not believe because they are not among his sheep. According to our text, how do people become Jesus' sheep?
2. If people come to saving faith in Jesus Christ, how do they maintain their faith throughout their lives? God keeps his sheep, but do we have any responsibility in keeping our salvation?

