

As to doctrine, both of these bodies claim to hold to the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, as we do. Both claim to carry on the great Reformed tradition. On matters of Calvinism there is, so far as I know, very little difference between the actual position that they take and the position that we take. Yet there is a vital difference between ourselves and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in the distribution of emphasis.

The Bible Presbyterian Church believes that the mind of man has become so clouded as a result of sin that it is impossible for it correctly to ascertain the great issues of eternity. The only way we can get information on these vital points is to study the revelation that God has given us in the Bible. When we find something clearly taught in the Bible we stand solidly upon it. Whenever we do not find sufficient evidence to declare that the Bible takes a clear position on a particular issue, we feel that we should refrain from taking a position on that issue, even when it might seem to us to be a reasonable deduction from other matters that are clearly taught in the Scripture. For each conclusion that we adopt we feel that we must have a specific exegetical basis. This was the view of Calvin, but it is not the attitude that we have observed among leaders of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

On several occasions I have heard a leader in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church remark that he did not believe in first making men Christians, and then making them Reformed Christians, but that they should be made Reformed Christians in one step. To my mind this is an utterly confusing statement. The difference between a Christian and a non-Christian is the difference between being saved and lost. It is the difference between following Christ and fighting against Him. On the other hand, the difference between an Arminian Christian and a Calvinist Christian is that the Calvinist has a great source of comfort and encouragement in understanding the Biblical teaching about the sovereignty of God and His divine election, while the other Christian is missing the blessing that comes from an understanding