

required to do so. All that is required of you in order to be members of the church is, that you should profess your faith in Jesus Christ as the divine Redeemer, and that your life and conduct should be consistent with your profession.

OUR DOCTRINE.

1. As to our doctrine then — I would remark that it is Catholic and comprehensive. It includes the fundamental doctrines of the gospel which all evangelical churches teach.

Its teaching gathers round the three foundation truths of revelation "ruin by the Fall, redemption by the Blood of Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit." Its system of theology is commonly called Calvinistic, as Calvin has been the ablest expounder of it. Its theology is the theology of the reformation. At the same time we must remember, that Calvin and the reformers only taught the truth which after earnest study they found in the word of God. They teach us to accept no doctrine on the authority of men. We follow them only because they follow the teaching of scripture. We have kept to this theology, therefore we are at home wherever a pure gospel is preached, and with Catholic spirit we rejoice in the preaching of the gospel by others, even though in certain points we do not see eye to eye with them,

2. Our system of doctrine is a logical one. There is no saving virtue in logic. But it is a satisfaction to find, how one truth of God's word supports and, as it were, leads up to another. That we are not involved in a tangle of disconnected doctrine, but are asked to receive a statement of doctrine, which is reasonable, and which is systematic. Such a statement we find in our Shorter Catechism, in which there is a regular gradation of doctrine from the first question to the last. It carries us through the course, beginning with the purpose of man's creation, then his

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