

Reformed Theology

Class 1, Part A: What is Reformed Theology

What is Reformed Theology?

“Reformed Theology is systematic. The science of systematic theology is so called because it attempt to understand doctrine in a coherent and unified manner. It is not the goal of systematic theology to impose on the Bible a system derived from a particular philosophy. Rather its goal is to discern the interrelatedness of the teaching of Scripture itself.”

RC Sproul

What is Reformed Theology

Why is it called Reformed Theology?

- 1) Reformed Theology came out the Reformation launched by Martin Luther in 1517
- 2) The term “Reformed” grew out of a revolt against the Roman Catholic Church. The leaders wanted to “*reform*” the practices of the church by centering on the Word of God over the tradition of the Popes and Church. The central issue of the Reformation was “authority.”
- 3) Reformed Theology is often associated with John Calvin
- 4) John Calvin’s theology does not constitute the totality of Reformed thought but it is often used as compendium, specifically when speaking of the means of salvation:

Acrostic TULIP

T _____
U _____
L _____
I _____
P _____

5) Reformed Theology is best understood in a much broader sense than Calvin's doctrines (Calvinism) through five great theses of the movements called The Five Solas

Five Solas

S _____
S _____
S _____
S _____
S _____

BREAK

Reformed Theology Class

Class 1, Part B: Scripture Alone / Sola Scriptura

Luther at the Diet of Worms

"Unless I am convinced by Sacred Scripture or by evident reason, I will not recant. My conscience is held captive by the Word of God and to act against conscience is neither right nor safe."

Historians have explained the Protestant Reformation by two causes:

M _____ : Doctrine of Justification (*Sola Fide*)

F _____ : : Doctrine of Biblical Authority (*Sola Scriptura*)

What is *Sola Scriptura*?

#1 It is the belief in the _____ of Scripture

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV

#2 It is the belief in the _____ of Scripture

"For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21 ESV

#3 It is the belief in the _____ of Scripture

Infallibility means something cannot err, inerrancy means it does not err

Infallibility is concerned with potentiality

Inerrancy describes actuality

#4 It is the belief in the _____ of Scripture

The question of Sola Scriptura is fundamentally one of authority

Principles of Interpretation of Scripture

The science of correct biblical interpretation is called Hermeneutics

The goal of hermeneutics seeks to understand the messages as it was originally intended by the author for the specific audience.

#1 The _____ Principle

#2 The _____ Principle

Sensus Literalis – the Bible must be interpreted according to the manner it was written

“We must everywhere adhere to the simple, pure, and natural meaning of the words. This accords with the rules of grammar and the usage of speech which God has given to men. For if everyone is allowed to invent conclusions and figures of speech according to his own whim...nothing could to a certainty be determined or proved concerning any one article of faith that men could not find fault with by means of some figure of speech. Rather we must avoid as the most deadly poison all figurative language which Scripture itself does not force us to find in a passage.”

Martin Luther

What Luther Says: An Anthology 1:62

#3 The _____ Principle

#4 The _____ Principle

#5 The _____ Principle

#6 The _____ Principle

#7 The _____ Principle

#8 The _____ Principle

#9 The _____ Principle

#10 The _____ Principle

The Grammatical Principle

SUPPORT 16 **Οὕτως** γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν κόσμον
οὕτως γὰρ ἀγαπάω ὁ θεὸς ὁ κόσμος
B CLX VAAI3S DNSM NNSM DASM NASM
in this way for loved [-] God the world

SUB-POINT ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν τὸν μονογενῆ **ἔδωκεν**
ὥστε ὁ υἱός ὁ μονογενής δίδωμι
CAR DASM NASM DASM JASM VAAI3S
so that his Son [-] one and only he gave

SUB-POINT ἵνα ^[TP] πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν ^[TP]
ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύω εἰς αὐτός
CAP JNSM DNSM VPAP-SNM P RP3ASM
so that everyone [-] who believes in him

(B μὴ **ἀπόληται** B)
μή απόλλυμι
TN VAMS3S
[should] not perish

BULLET ἀλλ' (A **ἔχη** **ζωὴν** **αἰώνιον** A)
ἀλλά ἔχω ζωὴ αἰώνιος
CLC VPAS3S NASF JASF
but should have life eternal

1

¹Steven Runge, *The Lexham Discourse Greek New Testament* (Logos Research Systems, Inc., 2008; 2008), Jn 3:15-16