

What It Means to Be Reformed

Where we are going in this course

- I. The Label “Reformed”

- II. The Ten Areas We Will Discuss
 - A. Nature and Use of Scripture
 - B. God is Sovereign
 - C. Covenantal Structure of Scripture
 - D. Plan of Salvation
 - E. All Embracing World View
 - F. Concept of Holiness
 - G. Church Government
 - H. Sacraments
 - I. Evangelism
 - J. Worship

Text

Coppes, Leonard – *Are Five Points Enough, The Ten Points of Calvinism*

Suggested Reading List

- Packer, J. I. – *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*¹
- Pink, A. W. – *The Sovereignty of God*¹
- Young, Edward J. – *The God Breathed Scripture*¹
- Robbins, John W. & Gerety, Sean – *Not Reformed at All*²
- Robbins, John W. – *Christ & Civilization*²
- Jones, Paul S. – *Singing and Making Music, Issues in Church Music Today*²
- Hansen, Collin – *Young, Restless, Reformed*¹

- Boettner, Loraine – *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*¹
- *The Westminster Standards*³

Available from:

¹ - The Evangelical Bible Book Store, 619-291.4381, www.ebiblebookstore.com/

² - The Trinity Foundation, 423.743.0199, www.trinityfoundation.org

³ – The Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 215-830-0900, www.opc.org

Homework

1. Read the chapter in Coppes' book before each class discussion of the topic
2. From the following the following scripture passages, memorize those you don't know:
 2 Timothy 3: 14 – 17
 Ephesians 2: 1 – 3, 8 – 10
 1 Corinthians 10:31
 Psalms 1, 23, 100
 John 3:16
 1 Peter 1: 13 - 16
3. Memorize the structure of Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians and 1 Peter

I. The Label "Reformed"

A. The reason for the title of the text

B. The use of labels

C. What does the label "Reformed" mean?

II. The Ten Areas We Will Discuss

A. The Nature and Use of Scripture

1. Scripture's view of itself

2 Timothy 3:14 - 17

2 Peter 1:20 - 21

1 Peter 1:22 – 2:3

2. Definition of Scripture (from Coppes)

God Speaking

About Christ

To Men

3. Use of Scripture

Perspicuity

Verbalization

Coherence

Effectiveness

4. Thoughts on Joshua 1:8 and Proverbs 3:5 & 6

B. God is Sovereign

1. Definition

Three parts

2. Should we deal with this subject?

WCF III, 8

What is the result of believing this?

How do you get that result?

3. Scriptural References

Psalm 33

Notice the progression in the thought. What does it remind you of?

Isaiah 46

God has a plan

God executes the plan

Ephesians 1:3 - 6

1 Thessalonians 1: 4 - 10

Genesis 50:19f and Acts 2:22f

4. What is outside of God's sovereignty? What does this say about bad events that happen (like the little girl in 2 Kings 5 who was kidnapped, Sept 11, 2001 and Hurricane Katrina)?

5. Arguments against the sovereignty of God

It's not fair

It leads to fatalism

It discourages evangelism

C. The Covenantal View of Scripture

1. Our relationship to Adam

Genesis 3: 1 - 19

Romans 5:12

1 Corinthians 15:20 - 23

2. The question of continuity and discontinuity between the testaments

Scripture's historical progression

How much of the OT relates to us today?

2 Timothy 3:16 – 17

1 Timothy 1:3 - 11

Romans 13:8 – 14

3. Excurses on hermeneutics – The NT's use of the OT
Christocentric:

Matthew 2:15 & Hosea 11:1

Acts 2:25f & Psalm 16:8f

Galatians 3:13 & Deuteronomy 21:23

Hebrews 10:1 – 10 & Psalm 40:6f

Non-Christocentric

Romans 8:36 & Psalm 44:22

Hebrews 12:5f & Proverbs 3:11f

1 Peter 3:6 & Genesis 18:12

James 5:17f & 1 Kings 17:1; 18:42

What principles do we deduce?

Our method should be the Holy Spirit's method

See Christ in the OT – 1 Peter 1:10 - 12

Remember our continuity and discontinuity

Example – how do we read Psalm 1?

D. The Plan of Salvation

1. Total Depravity of Man

Three terms

Original Sin

Total Depravity

Total Inability

Scriptural proof

Genesis 6:5

Romans 3

Ephesians 2:1 – 3

Colossians 1:21

John 3:1 – 7

John 6:44

John 8:43

John 10:25f

Romans 8:7f

1 Corinthians 2:14

Ephesians 4:17f

Man in his four fold state

Able to sin, able not to sin

Not able not to sin

Able to sin, able not to sin

Not able to sin

2. Unconditional Election

Terms

The decrees of God

Predestination

Election

Reprobation

Scripture Proof

John 6:32 - 40

John 10:26 (note the context from verse 11 on)

Acts 13:48

Romans 8:28f

Romans 9:1 - 33

Ephesians 1:3 – 6, 11

1 Thessalonians 1:4

2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 17

1 Peter 1:2

1 Peter 2:8 & Romans 9:22

The question this answers: If Total Depravity is true, how will anyone be saved?

A full statement of the doctrine: WCF, Chapter 3

3. Limited Atonement

The issue here

Intent

Salvation accomplished or salvation possible

Scriptural terms for Christ's Work

Redeemer

Matthew 20:28

Acts 20:28

1 Corinthians 6:20

1 Peter 1: 19 & 20

Titus 2:14

Savior

Matthew 1:21

Ephesians 2:8 & 9

Ephesians 5:23 - 27

The point here: What Jesus came to do He accomplished. Hence we ask, "Are ransomed / redeemed / saved people in hell?" Hebrews 9:12

Propitiation

Romans 3:10 – 26

Luke 18:13

Hebrews 2:14 – 18

1 John 4:10

Implication of universalistic passages

1 Timothy 2:1 - 7

2 Peter 3:9

1 John 2:2

4. Irresistible Grace

Remember Man's condition

John 6:44

Scripture Proof

John 3:1 – 7

John 1:12f

John 6:37

Phil 1:6

Philippians 2:13

Titus 3:5 – 6

1 Peter 1:2

2 Corinthians 4:6

Acts 16:14

5. Perseverance of the Saints

Where are we in the progression of Biblical thinking? In other words, "Who perseveres?"

God holds on to you

John 10: 1 – 30

John 6: 35f

Romans 8:29f

You hold on to God

John 11:25f (note that this incident is just after the discussion in John 10 discussed above)

James 2:14 – 26

Colossians 1:23

A Summary Quote – what is it that saves sinners?

E. The All-Embracing World View

1. Background Thoughts

The concept of a “Nature – Grace” dichotomy

What institutions has God set up?

What they are?

What are their tasks, rule and authority?

What are they not to do?

Understanding and applying this Biblical concept solves an important dilemma

Why do we ask this question?

WCF 1:6

2 Timothy 3:16 – 4:4

Colossians 3:17

2. Your job as a calling from God – 1 Corinthians 7:17 - 24

3. Right Living according to Proverbs

See also Colossians 2:3; 1 Corinthians 1:24 - 30

3. Life focused in worship

Token Principle

Examples

4. Life submitted to the Lord

Principle

Practice

State

Family

F. The Concept of Holiness

1. The Stimuli to Holiness (Phil 2:12 – 13)

The “Therefore”

God’s Side

Your Side

Compare the development of Romans 7 & 8

2. The Structure of Holiness (Phi 2:14 – 17)

Proper Attitude

Proper Witness

Proper Source

Proper Emotional Response

G. Church Government

1. What does the word "church" mean?

Etymology is not the way to get a definition

Usage in Scripture

Matthew 16:18

Matthew 18:17

Acts 2:47

Ephesians 1:22

2. Offices in the church

Ephesians 4:11

Philippians 1:1

1 Peter 5:1

3. Their tasks

Acts 20:28f

1 Peter 5:1f

What's a shepherd supposed to do?

What's the difference between a shepherd's tasks and an overseer's tasks?

Hebrews 13:17

4. Witherow's Six Principles

Office bearers were chosen by the people

Acts 1:15 – 26

Acts 14:23

Acts 6:5 – 6

The office of overseer (bishop) and the office of elder were identical

Phil 1:1

Titus 1:5 – 7

2 John 1 & 1 Peter 5:1

Acts 20:28

There was a plurality of elders

Acts 14:23

Acts 20:17

Phil 1:1

Ordination was the act of the presbytery

Acts 6:6

Acts 13:1f

1 Timothy 4:14

The privilege of appeal to the assembly of elders & the right of government exercised by them in their corporate character

Acts 15

Christ is the only head of the church

Ephesians 1:20; 5:23

Colossians 1:18

G. The Sacraments

1. What's a sacrament?

2. The meaning and mode of baptism

A Covenantal Comparison

Attribute	Noahic	Abrahamic	Mosaic	New
Script Ref	Genesis 9	Genesis 12; 15, 17	Exodus 19; 20; 31	Acts 2; 17; 1 Cor 1
Instituted by				
Head				
Members				
Sign				
Sign's Meaning				
Sign Applied to				

3. The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:17 - 34

What was the issue?

Paul's answer

The Lord's Supper is a proclamation (sign). How is an action a proclamation?

How often should we have the Lord's Supper?

What are the blessings of the Lord's Supper?

What are the curses of the Lord's Supper?

1 Corinthians 10:14 – 33

What was the issue?

The Lord's Supper is sharing. But sharing what?

Why does Paul call pagan sacrifices a sacrifice to demons (v 20f)

Why is the exhortation of v. 23 there?

What's unusual about the concept of v 27?

V 31 is often quoted by Reformed people. How does it relate to this context?

Given the above who may participate in the Lord's Supper?

H. The View of Evangelism

1. What is the gospel? Let's look at the two examples of preaching to Gentiles in Acts

Act 14:8 – 20

God is creator

Turn from your useless ways

God has given you a witness

Acts 17:16 – 33

God is creator

Adamic headship

God is sovereign

God is immaterial

All are to repent

Judgment is coming

What is a Christian?

The reason for the question

It's a Biblical term

Acts 11:26

Acts 26:28

1 Peter 4:16

What are the evidences of being a Christian?

The concept of a "credible profession of faith"

Two parts: What you say & What you do

The book of First John

What is conversion?

The noun is used only once in the NT – Acts 15:3

The verb is used many times – Acts 9:35; 11:21; 14:15; 15:17; 26:20; 26:18; 1 Thessalonians 1:9 (Note the prepositions in these uses)

The parts of conversion

Repentance

Faith

Who is to evangelize?