



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: The Biblical Pattern: Church History – The Reformation (May 14, 2023)

This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only" (James 1:22). Step 1: GATHER with your family or group. Step 2: REVIEW and DISCUSS the key points and scriptures from the sermon. Step 3: PRAY for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.

DISCUSSION STARTER

Is it good to have traditions? Why or why not? Read Mark 7:6-9.

DIGGING DEEPER 1

The Movement of Christianity. The movement of Christianity started with questioning the Apostolic succession. People began to question the Pope's power and the churches claim the Roman Catholic Church was the only true church and therefore gave the Pope supreme power over all religion. There were several other things that triggered this movement in the early 1400's. Please name as many as you can and contradict them with scripture. Based on these, why is it important to never accept anything as true until verified?

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Early Reformers. Pockets of resistance began to grow against the Catholic Church. Name one of the key early reformers who inspired John Haus who then inspired Martin Luther. What did he teach? John Wycliffe gained followers, what were they called and what did that name mean? What was Wycliffe's greatest contribution to the reformation? How did the Catholic Church respond to the Bible that was in English? What effect did this have? In 1395 The Lollards inspired by John Wycliff wrote out the 12 Conclusions that they believed was unbiblical about the Catholic Church. Look them up and discuss them. Do you agree with them? What was Henry the IV main focus? How did this inspire Martin Luther over 100 years later?

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Martin Luther. Who was Martin Luther? What was he personally struggling with? Luther was sent to Rome to inspire and restore his devotion to the Catholic Church. What happened instead? Like Martin Luther, how do our moments of disappointment become a catalyst to a new revelation that inspires our future? Martin Luther went back to Germany in 1517 and wrote his 95-Point Thesis. What was the crux of his thesis? How did the Catholic Church respond? What was at the heart of the Protestant Reformation? These "five Solas" (sola being the Latin word for "alone") are the 5 essential points of biblical doctrine that separate Protestantism from Roman Catholicism.

Study out these five solas and their corresponding scriptures:

- 1 – *Sola Scriptura*, "Scripture Alone." (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 17:17)
- 2 – *Sola Gratia*, "Salvation by Grace Alone." (Romans 3:24; 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- 3 – *Sola Fide*, "Salvation by Faith Alone." (John 3:16; Romans 4:4-5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-10)
- 4 – *Solus Christus*, "In Christ Alone." (Romans 8:1-3; Acts 4:12; Hebrews 10:1-10)
- 5 – *Soli Deo Gloria*, "For the Glory of God Alone." (Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Eph. 1:4-6; Isa. 42:8; 43:7; 48:11)

So, does the Reformation still matter? Yes, it matters greatly! It recovered the wonderful truth that the good news of salvation comes to us through Scripture alone. It is based on Christ and His finished work alone. It is received by grace alone through faith alone. Thus, we give glory to God alone! Don't be seduced by any other message. "This is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!" (1 Pet. 5:12b).

DOING THE WORD

The Protestant Reformation teaches us that we need to preach salvation by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ. We must uphold the authority of Scripture and encourage people to read and study their Bibles. We must place a greater emphasis on the personal relationship God desires to develop with us. Let's do what Jesus commissioned us to do by going and making disciples. This is the type of reform the church needs and the type of reform that God is looking to do. Close by praying and asking God to use each of you to be equipped and ready to be part of leading the movement that God has for CF.