



## Who We Are

### I. Expository preaching

- **What is expositional preaching?**

- There are basically two kinds of preaching, topical preaching and expositional preaching...

Topical Preaching	Expositional Preaching
Starts with a topic and looks for supporting verses	Starts with a passage and seeks to explain the meaning of the passage
Seeks to preach topics within the Bible	Seeks to preach through the whole Bible
Assumes that biblical topics are what Christians need to grow in Christ	Assumes the whole bible is what Christians need to grow in Christ
There is a strong tendency to fixate on one's favorite topics	When preaching through the whole bible, all topics are covered
There is a strong tendency to avoid one's least favorite topics	When preaching through the whole bible, all topics are covered
Much of the bible will go unaddressed	The whole word is preached
Easy to take things out of context	Places things within its context
Leaves people with no understanding of books as a whole	Leaves people with an understanding of the books as a whole
Leaves people with no understanding of the bible as a whole	Leaves people with an understanding of the bible as a whole
Rarely if ever deals with historical context	Always deals with historical context
Leaves people educated about several topics	Leaves people equipped for every good work.

- So which one is best? Do we only need to understand certain topics within the bible or do we need to preach through the whole bible? Fortunately, we don't have to rely on this little chart alone. The bible itself weighs in on this subject...

- ✦ **2 Timothy 3:14-4:2**

- Four things to notice...
  1. Paul tells Timothy to stay in the word that has made him "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."
  2. "All" scripture is breathed out by God and profitable, not just certain topics within scripture.
  3. When you study the whole thing you are "fully equipped"
  4. For the above reasons, Paul charges Timothy to preach the word! All of it, not just his favorite topics.

### II. Reformed

- **What does this really mean?**

- To many, if not most, reformed simply means predestinarian. While we certainly do teach to the classic reformed view of election/predestination, when we say we are reformed we are saying much more. We



## Who We Are

are saying that the following 5 truths mold and shape everything about who we are. So what are these truths? To many they are known as the five solas of the reformation and they are as follows...

### 1. **Sola Scriptura: *The Scripture Alone is the Standard***

- Today, many who claim to be Christians choose to trust their emotions rather than the word ignoring the fact that the word warns them that...
  - ❖ Jeremiah 17:9—*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it*
- ❖ In the midst of this age of emotionalism and relativism, we stand firm in the truth that God's word alone is the infallible rule of faith. We believe it to be infallible because...
  - ❖ 2 Timothy 3:16—*All Scripture is breathed out by God...*
- We believe it is the only rule of faith because the Apostle Paul described it as such. He described it as making us wise unto salvation, profitable for all kinds of things, and the tool that God uses to fully equip his people...
  - ❖ **2 Timothy 3:14-17**
- We will not be swayed by this current tide of relativism and emotionalism. We hold that the word of God alone is our infallible rule of faith.

### 2. **Soli Deo Gloria: *For the Glory of God Alone***

- We see over and over in scripture that God does everything for his own glory...
  - (1) God creates all things to declare his glory
    - ❖ Psalm 19:1--*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*
  - (2) God creates us for his own glory
    - ❖ Isaiah 43:6-7--*I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory,*
  - (3) God sends Jesus for his own glory
    - ❖ John 17:1--*Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,*
  - (4) God saves us for his own glory
    - ❖ Ephesians 1:4-6--*he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace,*
  - (5) God answers prayers for his own glory
    - ❖ John 14:13--*Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*
  - (6) God raises and brings down world leaders for his own glory
    - ❖ Romans 9:17--*the Scripture says to Pharaoh, For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.*
    - ❖ Exodus 14:4--*And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.*
  - (7) God is passionate about his glory, jealous for his own glory, does all things for his own glory
    - ❖ Isaiah 48:9-11--*For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. 10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.*



## Who We Are

*11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.*

(8) Finally, God calls his people to do live for his glory

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 10:31--*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
- Because of this, we at RCF are committed to doing all things for the glory of God alone.

### 3. Solo Christo! *We are saved by the work of Christ Alone*

- Today, many who call themselves Christians believe that you can get to heaven by being a sincere Muslim, Jew, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Buddhist, etc. They believe this in spite of the fact that the bible explicitly states the contrary.
  - ❖ John 14:6—*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
  - ❖ Acts 4:12—*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*
- Christ alone has paid the price for our sins. Christ alone has perfectly fulfilled the law for us. Thus, we are saved by the work of Christ, and Christ alone.

### 4. Sola Gratia: *Salvation by Grace Alone*

- "Deep down, human nature is convinced that there is a way for us to save ourselves.<sup>1</sup>" However, we at RCF know full well that the fall has left us utterly unable to save ourselves. Apart from a special work of grace we are at enmity with God and hateful toward God. Apart from grace, none of us seek God, none of us can please God, and all of us are under God's furious wrath...
  - ❖ Romans 7:18—*For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out*
  - ❖ Romans 8:7-8—*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*
  - ❖ Romans 3:10—*"None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*
  - ❖ Ephesians 2:3—*we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind*
- Because we understand this, we are unspeakably grateful for the grace of God that saves us. We are grateful that...
  - ❖ Ephesians 1:4-6—*...In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace*
  - ❖ Ephesians 2:8—*For by grace you have been saved*
- At RCF, we stand firm on the truth that we are saved by the grace of God alone.

### 5. Sola Fide: *Justification by Faith Alone*

---

<sup>1</sup> Michael Horton, "Reformation Essentials - Five Pillars of the Reformation," <http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/essentials.html>



## Who We Are

- This doctrine is the very heart of the reformation and for good reason. When the believers of the church of Galatia began to question or abandon this doctrine, Paul says to them...
  - ✦ ***Galatians 1:6-10***
- Paul states that if you reject justification by faith alone, you don't actually believe the gospel. Paul states that if you reject the doctrine of justification by faith alone, you are to be damned to hell. Yet this is exactly what the Roman Catholic Church has done. In fact, at the council of Trent (1545-1563) the Roman Catholic Church went so far as to declare that anyone who believed in the doctrine of justification by faith alone is to be excommunicated and assumed damned.<sup>2</sup>
- Can we see that this is truly a big deal? Can we agree that this is not nit picking over minor theological points? The gospel itself is at stake. The eternal souls of countless people are at stake. So what then does scripture say about this crucial doctrine?
  - ✦ ***Galatians 2:16***
  - ✦ ***Galatians 3:6-11***
- Of course this isn't the only place scripture speaks of this. Passages like Romans 3:28, Romans 4:5, Romans 5:1, Romans 11:6, among others also teach justification by faith alone.
- Because God's word is impeccably clear on this point, at RCF, we stand firm on the truth that we are justified (declared righteous by God) by faith alone.

## III. Multi-Generational Ministry

### ● What is multi-generational ministry?

1. **Age Segregated Ministry:** The best way to describe multi-generational ministry is by comparing it to a typical age segregated ministry. For most families in an age-segregated ministry, this is how life goes...
  - **Sunday Morning:** The kids are sent to their various Sunday school classes and the parents go to theirs. After Sunday school, its time for church. Sometimes the family worships together, but more often than not kids between the ages of 4-10 are carted off to children's programs during the service. In some larger churches, there are even separate worship services for children, teens, young adults, adults, and seniors all at the same time.
  - **Sunday Night & midweek meetings:** The younger children are carted off to another children's program, the teens attend the youth program, the young adults have their own program with as cool name like "Fusion," the adults go to their small groups, and the seniors stay home. It must be noted too that even the curriculum is divided up. These various age groups rarely if ever study the same content. The adults have no idea what the younger children are learning, the teens have no idea what their college aged siblings are learning, and the seniors who stayed home are convinced that none of them are really learning anything. Furthermore, the teaching often comes from very different theological perspectives. The children's worker teaches from the traditional Baptist curriculum, the youth pastor is an arminian charismatic, the young adults are studying John Piper or Mark Driscoll's new book, and the adults are John MacArthur's latest book. This makes it near impossible for a family

---

<sup>2</sup> Council of Trent Canons 9, 12, 14, 23, 24, 30



## Who We Are

to have a meaningful, coherent conversation about what they are learning. Not only are they unfamiliar with what everyone else is learning, their studies often directly contradict one another theologically.

- **So what is the fruit of such a ministry?**

- (1) Leave it to the professionals mentality

- (2) Abandonment of the faith

- (3) Age based spiritual elitism

- (4) The wisdom of the mature is never passed on to the immature

- **2. Multi-Generational Ministry:** Here at RCF, this is how life goes...

- Rather than constantly dividing families, families worship together. There is a nursery for children up to four years old, but after that, it's all family. Rather than constantly dividing the family, we encourage whole families to participate in small groups together.

- There is no "leave it to the professionals" mentality at RCF. At RCF, we are serious about passages like...

- ❖ Deuteronomy 6:6-9—*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

- ❖ Ephesians 6:4—*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

- There is no age based spiritual elitism at RCF. Our young guys love and hang out with our older guys. Our children hang out with and look up to our teens and you adults. The wisdom of the older and more mature in the faith is being passed on to the next generation to the glory of God and the edification of the body.

## IV. Simple Discipleship

- **What do we mean by simple discipleship?**

- Many churches today seem more interested in attendance than they are discipleship. They count the number of people in worship, they count the number of kids coming to the kids programs, they count the number of teens in youth group, they count the number of young adults in young adult ministry, they count the number of people coming to small groups, etc. This seems to have become the standard measure of success for a church. At RCF, we go deeper than numbers. At RCF, our goal is much bigger than just getting people to attend. We want to make disciples. We want to see people grow in Christ. We want to see non-believers saved, we want to see the immature Christians grow into mature believers, and we want to see the mature passing on their wisdom to the next generation. The question of course is, how do we do this? Simple, we equip you to do the work of the ministry and then send you out to do it. Let's unpack this just a bit...

- **1. Equip:** What do we mean by this? Ephesians 4 says...

- ❖ ***Ephesians 4:11-16***



## Who We Are

- In this passage we see that the leaders of the church are called to equip the body/help the body grow. When they are doing what they are supposed to do, people grow in their faith. So much so that eventually the body begins to “build itself up.” The question is, what programs are they using? What is their plan? How exactly do they help the body grow? The answer is bafflingly simple...PREACH THE WORD!!! We see in this in...

### ❖ **2 Timothy 3:14-4:2**

- This passage makes it crystal clear that God grows his Church through his word. The word makes us wise unto salvation. The word teaches, corrects, and coaches us. The word makes us “complete, equipped for every good work.” Thus our program is the same one that Paul told Timothy to institute. Preach the Word! We do this exposition ally on Sunday mornings, we do this systematically in our 411 groups, we do this conversationally in small groups, we do this in our homes with our families, we do this in small groups of people one our own time over coffee, Chick-fil-a, Panera, etc. As a result, we are growing. Who among us has not come to know the Lord in a deeper, more glorious way since we started RCF? Who among us has not grown in practical ways? Maybe you are a better husband, a better wife, a better parent, a more intentional evangelist, or maybe you are simply more faithful to be in the word personally. I have watched each and every one of us grow in these areas and it is glorious to behold. Why though? Why have you grown? Because the word of God is powerful. It transforms us. It is how God is fulfilling his promise to makes us more like his glorious Son Jesus (Romans 8:29). So is that it? No, as we grow, we must also go...
- 2. Send:** What do we mean by this? Simple, our growth is what equips us for the work of the ministry. So what is that work? Evangelizing the lost, teaching your children, volunteering in nursery, volunteering on the worship team, leading a small group, praying for the sick among us, visiting the sick in the hospital, bringing a hot pan of lasagna to a family when needed, mentoring someone younger in the faith, being the one who welcomes new families/individuals who visit our church, hosting small group, pulling the Church’s trailer (repairing the axle on the trailer), or even someday serving as an elder. This is not an exhaustive list, but it is sufficient to make the point that as we grow in Christ and are equipped for the work of the ministry. We are indeed...
- ❖ *Ephesians 2:10—his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*