

Reformation Sunday II

Big idea: We should review foundational doctrines of our faith so that we will continue to please God in the way we live our lives.

Fallen nature: We often live as if God does not exist

Desired result: That we would honor Christ in the things we believe and the things we say.

Intro: Review Only the Word, Only by Grace, Only By Faith

Trans: Two more come from this period we call the reformation.

I. Only for the Glory of God

Slide 1: Star filled heaven

A. Definition of Glory

OT - Cavod heavy/weighty - God's influence and His greatness is weighty in the universe

NT - Daxa – of the opinion - God is understood to be of high renown or majesty in Himself

Completely separated from His creation

B. Scriptural evidences

Slide 2: 1. Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the Glory of God -

so the wow from looking at a myriad of stars demonstrates something of God's Glory

Slide 3: 2. Luke 2:13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests

- So something about an angel filled sky and a host of angelic beings saying Glory to God – reveals something of God's glory - overwhelming, powerful, other than material/human

Slide 4: 3. Exod 33:18ff Then Moses said, Now show me your glory. And the Lord said, I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you and I will proclaim my name, the Lord in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But He said, You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live

- So Glory of God is too powerful for any human to behold without being consumed... like the heat from the sun... but more

C. God's expectation for us

Slide 5: crowd around a little kid at a piano ready to play – anticipation and expectation

Slide 6: Is 43:6b-7

We were created to reflect God's glory as were the stars

Slide 7: Is 42:8

God will not give His glory to another for us to worship
God will not give His glory for us to worship one another

Slide 8: 1 Cor 10:31

Context is eating that might cause a brother to stumble - meat sacrificed to idols
Sometimes there were drink offerings that were dedicated to demons

Teaching includes how we conduct ourselves among unbelievers should glorify God by not causing them to sin

So if I eat lots of sugar in a room of diabetics, I am guilty of not glorifying God with my freedom.

Teaching includes everything we do as being for God's glory

D. The rub – lots of things/ people get glory that rightfully belongs only to God

Slide 9: person stepping in front of another for the sake of a photo op... - stolen attention or it could also be a person making rabbit ears over another's head.

1. In the context of the reformation the accusation was that:

Saints were prayed to as people were supposed to be praying to God

Cathedrals that were supposed to draw glory to God were sometimes so ornate that they really drew glory to themselves

Church leaders seemed to claim such power that many concluded that they took glory for themselves that rightfully should only belong to God

2. In our current context we know the expectation

Slide 10: Psalm 115:1

Slide 11: John 3:30

Reference is from John the Baptist regarding Christ - the friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine and is now complete.

3. In our current context the accusation is that:

Personalities accept greater authority that they deserve - pastor worship – whatever pastor says

Or sports heroes - people study them and know all about them

Or music heroes – people love bands and listen religiously to what they have created... comparatively speaking they spend lots more time and energy thinking about them than they would ever do regarding God

Or political heroes - some give their lives to support one person

Leadership abuse - exercising authority over what you do and how you spend your time and money

Financial abuse - people can love God, but worship their money

Relationship confusion - I love God, but find my security in my spouse or in my kids or in my friends

Personal aggrandizement – personal pride - ugly, but celebrated - soccer players - your role is to get the ball to me

Professional loyalty - give all their energy to their profession and not mostly for financial reasons, but because it helps give them identity. ... not Christ, but their work

Comfort

Possessions

Piper - We glorify God by being *satisfied* in Him and Him alone.

Westminster Confession - What is the chief end of man? To Glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

Teach: We are created to give Glory to God alone.

Illus: Jesus told rich man to give everything away - for him it was about his heart... why could he not do it? Responsibility? Trust? Personal identification came from what he owned.

Laternau was a dreamer who made it rich. He did not give everything away... only 90%. He kept working for the glory of God and supported lots of ministries for God's glory

Appli: 1 Not for our happiness, but for God's Glory
Not for our aggrandizement, but for the Glory of God

II. Christ Alone

Slide 12: One solitary cross

A. Idea of Human mediator is ancient

1. Definition – One who stands between two parties in order to establish friendly relations . This presupposes that the situation existing between the two parties is one of alienation which the mediator attempts to overcome.

2. Moses is an early example Exod 19:9-20

a. God was so holy that people could not look at Him and live... could not come near the mountain where God revealed His glory. The people stayed down... Moses went up

b. God's holiness could justifiably destroy them who partied while He met with

Moses

Father

c. The People's need for mercy and grace could justifiably come before the

i. Some by punishment

ii. Some by repentance

iii. Some by faithfulness among a crooked generation

3. The Priesthood became institutionalized

Slide 13: Pic of a big college building - institution

Slide 14: Exod 19:5

- intended for everyone to come before God

Slide 15: Exod 28:40-41

- restricted to only a class

Slide 16: Numbers 16:40a ... as a reminder to the sons of Israel that no layman who is not of the descendants of Aaron should come near to burn incense before the LORD;

4. The priesthood became powerful -

Slide 17: Bulldozer - some strong vehicle

a. In Jesus' day the Jewish priests had become a political figure - High priest was working with Rome on behalf of the people

b. In Martin Luther's day a priest was believed to wield the key of heaven and hell.

5. The strong priesthood led to the division of sacred and of common

B. The idea of a human mediator became essential

1. People felt unworthy to come before a holy God as they did in Exodus

2. People felt the dichotomy of church experience and everyday life

C. God's answer is completion

1. He completes the Priesthood by ordaining one final, perfect priest

Slide 18: is it possible to show (in cartoon form) a pyramid of people... the idea is that there are many, but only one final one

a. Heb 4:14-16 He is the great High Priest

i. Jesus is a great high priest

ii. Jesus has gone through the heavens - He came down

- iii. Jesus is the Son of God
- iv. Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses
 - He was tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin
- v. Jesus grants us access to God's throne

b. 1 Tim 2:5-6

- i. God is one
- ii. there is only one mediator
- iii. Jesus is called the man
- iv. Jesus bears the name Christ - chosen one
- v. Jesus gave Himself a ransom

2. He fulfills Jesus' priesthood by fulfilling Exod 19:6 in 1 Peter 2:4-10

Teach: We have access to God through the priesthood of Jesus Christ alone.

Illus: Lucy and access to her father... she loved him, served him, gave up her life in service to him... she alone earned the right to unleash his mind and heart.

Appli: 1. Come to Jesus alone, each of us
2. Take your role as the priest of your home
3. Resist every urge to separate the sacred from the common. Take Jesus with you in and through your live (work, studies, parenting, care-giving... whatever you do)

Slide 19: 1 Cor 10:31