

Better Preaching, Better Teaching, Better Pastoral Care

BETTER PREACHING, **Better Teaching, Better Pastoral Care**—these are the primary human means by which the gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed, the Scriptures and the Christian faith are taught, and the people of God are gathered for worship and service. The **Foundation for Reformed Theology** strengthens ministers in each of these areas in order to help them build up the congregations they serve.

The Need

Why is this necessary? First of all, it is impossible for anyone to learn everything needed for ministry in three years of seminary. Second, the life of the church today has been compromised by confusing the gospel with self-help, Christian faith with personal preference, worship with entertainment (in traditional services as much or even more than in contemporary services), pastoral care with therapy, and mission with social work.

Our Vision

By way of contrast, the Foundation understands that the faith and life of the church can best be upheld, sustained, and reformed through the church's own historic faith and practices, particularly preaching, teaching, and pastoral care, which have a proven record of building up the church. Thus the Foundation works to strengthen pastors in their ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ as attested to in the Scriptures, as summarized in the creeds and confessions of the church, and as articulated in the classic texts of Reformed theology, all to the glory of God and the building up of the church.

Reformed Theology

This leads to the question of what Reformed theology is. The leaders of the first generation of the Protestant Reformation, including Martin Luther (1483–1546), were committed to the authority of the Scriptures as the word of God. Through that, they rediscovered the gospel of Jesus Christ as salvation by grace through faith.

The leaders of the second generation of the Protestant Reformation, including John Calvin (1509–1564), sought to be even more thoroughly Reformed according to the word of God. This led to their additional emphases on the sovereignty of God and on the Christian life of worship and obedience. The Foundation affirms the faithfulness, wisdom, depth, and vigor of these Reformers and of those theologians of later generations who built upon their articulation of the Christian faith. Their theology has had a profound impact upon the church and human history, for they described with authenticity both the human condition and the reality of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

Our Mission

Thus the Foundation is committed to receiving, studying, learning, and appropriating the faith and teachings of those who have gone before us in order best to apply that historical and ongoing theology to reforming the faith and life of the church today. Moreover, the Foundation affirms that a lifetime of diligent study and understanding of Reformed theology will help build up the Reformed and Presbyterian congregations of the church in particular and therefore the entire church of Jesus Christ in general.

Our Program

The Foundation's main program for strengthening pastors in their ministry in the Reformed tradition is a series of week long, annual, study seminars covering more than thirty topics, from the Bible, the living God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, election, providence, and revelation to the creeds, preaching, prayer, worship, Christian life, and the hope for eternal life. The Foundation provides leadership, bibliographies, room, board, and travel for these seminars. It continually seeks to recruit more pastors into this program and to form new seminars. Many report that these occasions for study, retreat, collegiality, and friendship with six or eight of their fellow pastors are the most rewarding events for reforming ministry in which they participate. The Foundation also sponsors graduate scholarships, lectureships, research, translations, publications, and the purchase of rare Reformed books to help the church.

The Ministry

Ministry is hard work. Much of it is done in solitude. The Foundation is here to help the church by doing what a three year seminary education cannot, providing the structure and content of a program to anchor and enrich the ministry of pastors for ten, twenty, thirty, or forty years.

An Appeal

In short, the Foundation for Reformed Theology promotes the study of Reformed theology for the ongoing reformation of the church. It invites and urges your support of this endeavor in this age of theological fads, confusion, and uncertainty. Please join this effort to strengthen the church by strengthening those called to be leaders in the Reformed and Presbyterian churches.

Donations

If you would like to be a part of this effort and to support this work financially, please send a check to "Foundation for Reformed Theology" at the address below.

If you would like to make a gift of stock or some other type of gift, please contact the executive director at the same address or by email or telephone.

The Foundation is exempt from Federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and is not a private foundation as defined by Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. James C. Goodloe IV, *Executive Director*

Foundation for Reformed Theology

4103 Monument Avenue

Richmond, Virginia 23230

goodloe@foundationrt.org

www.foundationrt.org

(804) 678-8352

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