



(Reformation Sunday)
The Testimony of Francis Grimké
“Life in His Name” Series
Isaiah 1:11-17 p. 566
October 27, 2019
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

On Reformation Sunday we celebrate the church’s testimony and reflect on a key theme: prejudice.

The Message

- 1) What is Reformation Sunday?

- 2) The Testimony of Francis Grimké

- 3) Grimké: “Christianity and Race Prejudice” – Isaiah 1:11-17

(a) Christians should reflect their Christian identity in their attitudes toward every race.

(b) Churches should reflect the beautiful diversity of the international family of God.

(c) Churches and Christians need to be warned by the strong words of the Prophet Isaiah.

Response

Reformation Sunday reminds us of the testimony of the church, and encourages us to always reform our individual lives and church life to the gospel and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Small Group Questions

Isaiah 1:11-17

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- 1) Starter Question: When have you seen or experienced prejudice against a person because of race?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Why in this text is God so offended by the sacrifices and religious observances of his people?
- 4) Reflecting on v. 13, what makes an offering to God “vain” (i.e., empty, meaningless)?
- 5) How should we understand v. 15, where God says because of offences he will not listen to his people’s prayers, and how does 1 Peter 3:7 help explain such a statement?
- 6) What are the preferred or proper responses God approves provided in vv. 16-17?
- 7) How should churches and Christians obey v. 17, specifically the commands to “seek justice” and “correct oppression?”
- 8) Where does injustice and oppression exist in our context today?
- 9) Evangelicals are currently debating the contemporary “social justice movement,” whether it is biblical and how such justice might be pursued. How might v. 17 speak into this topic and debate?
- 10) In a culture that so politically and ethnically divided, how can Christians find a unique unity as citizens of the Kingdom of God and as ambassadors of the gospel to the world?

Further study this week: Galatians 3 on the equality of all people (Mon); Matthew 23 on religious hypocrisy (Tues); Ezekiel 22 on Israel’s unjust practices (Wed); Luke 10 on loving neighbor (Thurs); Micah 6 on the justice God requires (Fri).