95 Theses

Reformation Today

Fellowship for International Reformation & Evangelism

Inspired by, and based upon, Dr. Martin Luther’s historic 95 Theses published 31 October 1517, which launched the Protestant Reformation. We offer these 95 Theses for Reformation Today to stimulate prayerful reflection, study of God’s Word, discussion in the Church and positive action for Reformation Today:

1. Our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, commanded us to: “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is near” (Matthew 4:17). The whole life of a believer must be one of repentance.
2. This cannot be interpreted as a token of commitment, nor a technical salvation that is all theory and no experience.
3. Biblical repentance involves conviction: a change of mind; contrition: a change of heart; and conversion: a change of life. It is not enough to confess our sin, we also need to reject sin, to loathe it and to forsake it. Repentance involves a change of mind, a change of heart, a change of habits and a change of behaviour.
4. “Now, therefore, says the Lord, turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. So rend your heart and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness…” Joel 2:12-13
5. This was the message of the Apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38
6. This was the message of the early Church: “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so thatcleanse from iniquity may come from the presence of the Lord.” Acts 3:19
7. The heart of the Gospel is a changed life in Christ.
8. God is a Holy God and His righteous standards are seen in His Law. Man is sinful and we need to repent from our wickedness and trust in Christ.
9. This repentance and faith is to be evident in obedience to Christ, and a willingness to sacrifice and to suffer persecution for Christ. To those who turn to Him in repentance and faith, God promises great blessings, rewards and eternal life.
10. Before He returned to Heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ commanded His followers: “But repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name to all nations…” Luke 24:47
11. Repentance is by the grace of Christ, not by faith alone, on the basis of Christ’s blood atonement on the Cross of Calvary alone.
12. Biblical Salvation always involves a change of behaviour. “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7
13. Those who teach that as long as you believe you are saved, regardless of how you behave, are false teachers. The Scripture makes clear that just as repentance without faith is not true repentance, so faith without repentance is not true faith. For repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin. Belief always affects behaviour.
14. “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead. But someone will say, you have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works... for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:17-26
15. The Scripture warns us not to harden our hearts (Psalm 95:8). Blessed is the man who always fears the Lord, but who hardens his heart falls into trouble (Proverbs 28:14).
16. “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the Kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified by the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
17. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and He saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18). The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17). The Lord promises to hear and heal the responsive and humble heart (2 Kings 20:5).
18. “Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart, and a new spirit. For why should you die...?” Ezekiel 18:31
19. Those who claim that we can accept Jesus as Saviour, without submission to His standards, are as guilty as the first Adam (Romans 3:18-20). The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51). The Lord promises to hear and heal the responsive and humble heart (2 Kings 20:5).

Theological seminaries have generally been infiltrated by liberal theologians and those who hold to historic evolution. The undermining of Biblical Christianity in many denominations is like a cancer working throughout the body.

85. “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Therefore the wrath of the Lord is upon you.” 2 Chronicles 19:2

86. We need to face the moral challenges of our day, including confronting sin.

87. Emo is not effective. Churches, ministries and individuals who wholeheartedly support these 95 Theses for Reformation Today: are God fearing; worship Him in the beauty of holiness (Habakkuk 2:12); are committed to loving, worshipping, serving, obeying, and honouring God. We need a Biblical vision of righteousness, justice, love and compassion. Serving, obeying, and honouring God. We need a Biblical vision of righteousness, justice, love and compassion. You cannot have a personal life, for your Churches, for your nations and for the world.

88. When we repent of our personal guilt in violating God’s Commands, the result is forgiveness, freedom, healing and restoration. However, when repenting for false, or psychological, guilt we will never find freedom and forgiveness - because the devil is a hard taskmaster. We must know the Bible to recognize deception in the world and we must understand history in order to expose those who attempt to manipulate God’s people through guilt manipulation.

89. “Where there is no vision, a people perish...” Proverbs 29:18. We need a positive and practical vision from the Word of God for our personal lives, for our Churches, for our nations and for the world.

90. We must give our highest priority to loving, worshipping, serving, obeying, and honouring God. We need a Biblical vision of righteousness, justice, love and compassion. “The Lord loves righteousness and justice...” Psalm 33:5

91. “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

92. The Reformation Society encourages further study and discussion on the Reformation doctrines and actions needed for Reformation Today. Please visit our Facebook page: Reformation500 to post your comments and suggestions.

93. Churches, ministries and individuals who wholeheartedly support these 95 Theses for Reformation Today are encouraged to email info@christianaction.org.za to register their endorsement, or to write to: The Reformation Society P. O. Box 74 Newlands 7725 Cape Town South Africa.

94. www.Reformation500.org

Join the Christian Action Network

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Send their children to, what are effectively, anti-Christian brain washing institutions.

84. Life begins at conception. Abortion is murder. The sanctity of life is an essential aspect of the Christian Faith. Christians must “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.” Proverbs 31:8 and “Rescue those being led away to death.” Proverbs 24:10

90. The whole of human life is far too tolerant of sin. “God now commands all men everywhere to repent.” Acts 17:30

91. Sin is far more devasting than dirt, more dangerous than an unexploded bomb, more life threatening than a deadly disease—more insidious than a virus. “Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.” Isaiah 55:6

92. “The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.” Psalm 19:7. The Lord promises to hear and show the nature of sin. Failure to use the Law is almost certain to result in false hope, the introduction of a false standard of Christian experience, and to nullify the church with false converts. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).

93. They will never accept grace until they tremble before a just and holy Law. The Law of the Lord is the schoolmaster that leads us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith alone (Galatians 3:24). Salvation is by the grace of God alone, received by faith alone.

21. But someone will say, you have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works... for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:17-26

22. Christ alone is the Head of the Church. Christ is the only Mediator between God and man. Truth conquers. Not all the darkened goslings can be washed, but a willingness to sacrifice and to suffer persecution for Christ. To those who turn to Him in repentance and faith, God promises great blessings, rewards and eternal life.

23. It is by the grace of God alone, received by faith alone. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

24. Those who teach that as long as you believe you are saved, regardless of how you behave, are false teachers. The Scripture makes clear that just as repentance without faith is not true repentance, so faith without repentance is not true faith. For repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin. Belief always affects behaviour.

25. Scripture alone is our ultimate authority. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17
29. Christians must be aware of those churches that try to look and sound like the world, but in reality are more noble than the others in that they searched the Scriptures daily, to see if the things that the apostles said were true (Acts 17:11).

31. A mature Christian is a discerning Christian. We cannot love God without knowing God without studying His Word, the Bible. Christians should test themselves to see whether they be in the faith. Has there been a genuine change in your life? Have you ever experienced all that God promised in His Word? Do you love God with all your heart, mind and strength? Do you love to study God’s Word? Do you love to pray? Do you hate sin?

32. We are commanded to contend for the faith, once delivered to the saints. Our Lord Jesus said that an evil and idolatrous generation seeks for a sign (Luke 11:29). Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, through sacrifices and sufferings, declared that one can receive Christ as Saviour without submitting to God as Lord (Romans 10:9-10), and that without repentance and faith no man can be saved (Acts 10:43). The repentant earnestly desires to undertake full restitution, to repair, replace and restore what he has taken, or damaged.

33. The blameless man is commanded to contend for the faith (1 Timothy 5:8). The duties of a citizen of the kingdom of heaven are to be as God in all conscience and in all truth (Romans 12:18). We need to know the Word of God and we need to know the purposes of God as revealed in the Holy Scripture. In this culture war, it is vital that we understand the war that is being waged on all fronts by the invisible enemy. The Word of God declares: “For the earth will be filled with knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” Habakkuk 2:14

34. Sickly people will not be able to judge correctly. In John's Gospel, we read: “Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His Name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit His spirit to His Father, because He knew that His Father had all things and that He needed to do was to be obedient to His Father’s will (John 10:38).”

35. Only the Gospel can change lives. Conversion for health and wealth is a false conversion. Those who teach that believers should tap into cosmic forces and laws of attraction, are unbiblical. What we do is what we think. Actions flow from thought patterns. The Word of Faith resembles the philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic assumptions of this world system. It is the philosophy of the classroom and from the minds of the next generation. By education is attempting to kill God by eradicating Him from our culture, from our schools, and our homes. The news media is so pervasive, it is in these realms that the battle is being waged.