

Freedom:

Seven Lesser Known Gifts of Our Reformation Heritage

Part 5

Our GCC Vision (Part 2)

Ephesians 4:11-16

The Biblical Vision of the Christian's Freedom (as Preserved in Our Reformation Heritage):

His Own Special People:

- I. The Priesthood of Every Believer
- II. The Freedom of the Individual Conscience
- III. The Perspicuity (Accessibility) of Scripture
- IV. The Primacy of Preaching

His Image Bearers:

- V. Our Union with Christ
- VI. Our Inheritance of the World
- VII. The Holiness of Everyday Life

How this Vision of God & the Christian Life shapes Our Vision as a Church Family:

Last Week:

- I. Our Passion & Preoccupation
- II. Our Preaching & Teaching
- III. Our Pastoral & Leadership Heart

IV. Our Participation in One Another's Lives

A. A Theological Re-definition

*"Can you introduce me to the Minister here?"
"Are we Fellow-shiping yet?"*

B. A Geographical Re-orientation

*Public/Scheduled Gatherings
Personal Lives*

C. A Methodological Illusion

*Times have changed...
The Solution is not in the Schedule*

D. A Motivational Alteration

*Perfect Attendance Pins
It's a Treasure-thing...again.
The Freedom-dilemma*

V. Our Presence in the World

A. Our Identity in this World

Christ's Body

God's Image-bearers

Heirs of All Things

B. Our Life in this World is:

Incarnational

Involved

Influential

Inclusive

Inviting

C. Our Witness in this World is Not Passive

Experience *God's Grace*

Engage *People*

Exhibit *Holiness*

Explain *Hope (usually responsive)*

Conclusion:

How does God grow His church?

By growing *us* into vital, vigorous, visible representatives of Him & His grace and gladness.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.