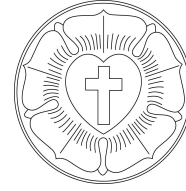




Is the Reformation Dead?



The horrible tragedy that occurred on September 11 has had a problematic effect on the Christian church. While we find comfort in Christ through these difficult times, knowing that He is with us and will sustain us in the face of fear and trouble, the Christian Church has not worn this same face in the media.

Due to various statements made by a number of Christian and non-Christian leaders, the media (and even some Iowa teachers in public schools) have sent the message, “We all pray to the same God,” that the God of the Christians is the same as that of Islam and Judaism.

And why not? We all use the same Old Testament and believe that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, etc. Same God, right? To answer, “Yes,” would be calling Jesus a liar.

(Matthew 7:21, NIV) *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”*

But what is the will of the Father? Simply faith in Christ as our Savior, the central principle of the reformation: Sola Gratia (Grace alone) Sola Fide (Faith alone) Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone). That is, only through faith (God-given trust) in God’s grace (Undeserved love because of Christ’s sacrifice as our substitute on the cross) as taught by Scripture brings salvation and eternal life. This is quite a different teaching than that of the Muslims and Jews, who teach that salvation comes for those who obey God’s Law.

But is it the same god? If teachings didn’t matter, Martin Luther would not have put his life on the line for God’s truth. If “it’s all the same god, and different people just know him/her/it by different names,” then Jesus was wrong when He said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (John 14:6) If these were all the same god, then that God is to be indicted for wrongly punishing the Israelites for idolatry over and over, because they were really praying to Him!

But regardless of what the world says, the Lord is One, and He is only found through the Bible, both New and Old Testaments. He is Triune: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He saves not because of man’s works, but because the Son became flesh, lived a perfect life for us, and was punished in our place on the cross, and through His blood, we have eternal life.

(Acts 4:12, NIV) Salvation is found in no one else, for there is *no other name* under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Here we stand. We can do no other.