

Study Fellowship November 2011 – January 2012

'Flowers, Dead People, and Tending Sheep' or What it means to live out Reformed Theology in the 21st Century by being a Presbyterian, PCA."

(Mark's)

The focus of this class looks at the historical and theological underpinnings of what it means to be PCA in the 21st century. We will go back and look at Calvinist and Puritan theology, many times represented as flowers, as a means of explaining our core doctrine. We will explore the writings of "dead men", Calvinist, Reformed, Presbyterian theologians whose wisdom of the past brings us life in the 21st century. And finally we will look at what does it mean to be a Reformed Church as it relates to Biblical church government and being shepherds. The framework of the class will come from the following four books of the series: Basics of the Reformed Faith--(1) What is a true Calvinist? (Ryken), (2) What is Grace? (Lucas), (3) What is Providence (Derek), and (4) What is a Reformed Church (Smallman). Further background from the Presbyterian Primer, Historical Roots of the PCA and Biblical Church Government (Clements) will be used.

(Larry's)

So what do "flowers, dead people, and tending sheep" have to do with the ministry of the gospel? Let me try to explain. There is a flower the name of which represents an acrostic for remembering five of the main points of reformed doctrine. Thus "flowers". One of those points is that, apart from Christ, we are "dead", i.e. "dead in our sins and trespasses", and completely unable to respond to God. Thus "dead people". But once the Spirit enables us we are in continual need of the spiritual tending of our good shepherd Jesus because we are continually inclined to go our own way. Additionally, we are all called to "tend" to one another. Thus "tending sheep".

Please join us to learn more about all of these truths in our study fellowship - "Flowers, Dead People, and Tending Sheep".