

9.5 Theses for a New Reformation

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1. A new and much-needed Reformation can only begin when Christians learn to see questions and doubt as part of faith. The stigma against questions comes not from faith but from **fear**
2. The greatest flaw of Christian faith today is its belief in an all-powerful God who controls our lives and has a plan for everything; this view of God knows nothing of the cross, where God demonstrated God's **weakness** in Christ
3. The God of Jesus Christ limited Himself by becoming incarnate in history; any faith that worships the God of power is thus a denial of the incarnate Christian God
4. Most Christians believe in **fate**—not faith. A believer in fate looks up and says, “God has a plan.” Faith, by contrast, does not look up—it looks forward. When we meet obstacles in life, we should not look up for help from heaven but venture forth, expecting (by faith) to meet Christ in and through these obstacles
5. The popularity of language concerning God's plan reflects a dominant anxiety of our time: meaning and its loss. Instead of denying the randomness of life, Christianity should teach us to face it
6. Non-denominational churches are not “just Christian.” They are sectarian forms of Protestant Christianity that often preach the opposite of what their marketing slogans advertise
7. God doesn't intervene from beyond history to fix our problems; as the power of being in life, He empowers us from **within** to face them ourselves
8. The quickest way to kill theology and the search for truth, both of which are an expression of faith, is to renounce it all as mere opinion
9. Any “gospel” that preaches wealth as a result of faith implicitly blames the poor for their lack of faith—the very people whom God favors (Lk 6:20)
- 9.5. This congregation will only become the church of the future, the church that people like Martin Luther, Dorothee Soelle and Dietrich Bonhoeffer envisioned, if we embrace what it means to live out our mission and theology—to be imitators of God, to reach out to others in faith and love