

Reformation Covenant Church Adult Sunday School

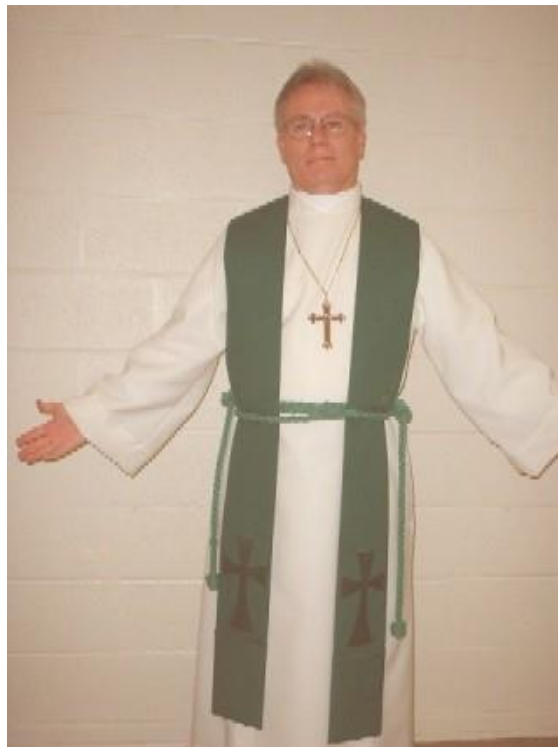
Worship & Liturgy

Week 6: Liturgical Vestments – A Biblical Case

- I. Review
 - a. Class Outline
 - i. Week 1 – What Worship Is, Centrality of Worship, and The Regulative Principle
 - ii. Week 2 – Intro to CRW and Call to Worship
 - iii. Week 3 – Confession
 - iv. Week 4 – Consecration and Commission
 - v. Week 5 – Communion
 - vi. *Week 6 – Vestments: A Biblical case*
 - vii. Week 7 – Vestments: Practical considerations & Q&A
- II. Vestments – Introduction and history



Alb



Alb and Stole

III. Vestments – A Biblical Case

- a. The Lord is described as “robed” as a sign of His majesty and authority
 - i. *Isaiah 6:1 - “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of his **robe** filled the temple.”*
 - ii. *Psalm 104:1-2 - “Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord My God, You are very great: You are **clothed** with honor and majesty, Who **cover yourself with light as with the garment**, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.”*

- b. The Lord’s garments are white/light
 - i. *Daniel 7:9 - “And the Ancient of Days was seated; His **garment was white** as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire”*
 - ii. *Matthew 17:2 - “and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His **clothes became as white as the light.**”*
 - iii. *2 Cor. 11:13-14 - “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an **angel of light.**”*

- c. Rulers and those honored by them wore robes
 - i. Kings of Israel and Judah in 1 Kings 22
 - ii. Ezra in Ezra 9
 - iii. Jacob → Joseph in Gen 37
 - iv. Pharaoh → Joseph in Gen 41
 - v. Ahasuerus → Mordecai in Esther 6
 - vi. Belshazzar → Daniel in Daniel 5

- d. Clothing, especially robes, are related to office and calling
 - i. David in 1 Sam 18
 - ii. *Isaiah 22:19-21 – So I will drive you out of your office, And from your position he will pull you down. Then it shall be in that day, That I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah; **I will clothe him with your robe** and strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand.*

- e. Priests of Israel had distinctive garments
 - i. *Exodus 28:3-4 – So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron’s garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.*

f. Are NT Elders priests?

- i. We have a problem in letting Roman Catholic theology tell us what a priest is and was. In traditional RCC theology, a priest “mediates” between God and man in the sense of having power to negotiate between the two in some sense. This is more than mere representation. Representation is purely official. A representative speaks for the people to God, and for God to the people, but a representative does not have any power to alter the covenantal arrangement. He has no power in himself; he is only a speaker. – James Jordan, *Sociology of the Church*
- ii. *Matthew 16:18-19 – And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*
- iii. *James 5:14-15 – Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*
- iv. *1 Timothy 4:14 – Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.*

g. Christ and His servants in Revelation

- i. *Revelation 15:6 - And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, **clothed in pure bright linen**, and having their chests girded with golden bands*
- ii. *Revelation 7:9 - After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, **clothed with white robes**, with palm branches in their hands*
- iii. *Revelation 4:4 - Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, **clothed in white robes**; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.*

h. Summary