

Your Reformed Blog Form YRR-5S

You need a blogosphere presence if you don't already have one. You need a place where you can argue about theology, assuming real life doesn't provide enough of a place for that. We know that creativity may or may not be your thing, so we've devised this handy worksheet to help you set up your Younger, Restless, Reformed blog:

Step One: If you're a woman, your blog needs to be about your family and include a lot of pictures of your family (baptism, first steps, first poo, soccer games, inevitable backsliding, and glorious return). Skip all remaining steps and enjoy your time on the blogosphere.

Step Two: If you're a man, you need to choose one of the five solas (below) as either the title or the subtitle (with your name) for your blog. They are:

Sola Scriptura
Sola Fide
Sola Gratia
Solus Christus
Soli Deo Gloria

In addition to both looking and sounding cool (they're Latin, which is a dead language, but a very cool-sounding dead language), the solas will make it clear that you're not establishing, commenting on, promoting, and obsessively monitoring an Internet presence to bring glory to yourself, but rather to God.

If, for some unforeseen reason, you are unwilling to follow this time-honored and holy naming convention, do not fret; there is room for creativity in the reformed blog tradition! For example, you might name your blog "The Five Solas." That's different. You also have the option of choosing a snippet of Scripture about defeating heretics (e.g., "Contending Earnestly," "Always Ready With a Response," "Every Thought Captive," "I Wish They Would Emasculate Themselves,") or a Reformation concept (two kingdoms, two ages, dividing Law and Gospel), or simply smashing together any two of the following words:

theology	doulos
philosophy	Reformation
blog	revolution
apologia	Calvinism

(example: a•blog•ogia)

Puns are also acceptable, natch.

Step Three: Choose an image for the banner that runs across the top (please use the blank space below to sketch out some ideas). Sticking with one of the pictures Blogspot or Wordpress offers is not a smart move. If you're *providency* or famous, you might blog at The Gospel Coalition, which is the online hub of all things reformed, in which case they will provide a cool graphic. But if you're not famous you need to put some thought and effort into a banner image that captures your unique love of the following: Coffee, Books, Your Family. Ideally all three. If you can muscle past your initial frugal resistance, istockphoto.com may be a good place to start. Or you can look for free stuff on Google. Either way, don't forget to Photoshop the thing until it's a barely recognizable wad of pixels.

Workspace Provided
(please keep your ideas in the box)

Note: your banner graphic will *not* look as cool as Tony Jones's. It's important that you get this through your head before you move on.

Step Four: Begin blogging! You're probably thinking, "What should I write about?" Before we answer that question, let us emphasize that *what* you write is far less important than *how often* you write, which is every stinking day, no matter what.

That said, write about what everyone else is writing about. Good blog content is like good theology—little ships should stay close to harbor. If there's a controversy brewing in YRR-land, you might write about that. Is one of the big YRR conferences about to start or did it just end? Write about that. Is your family super awesome? (Answer: yes.) Write about that. You can fill in slow days by giving "your biblical view" of any national news items from two weeks previous.

Congrats—you're ready to go. Happy Blogging!