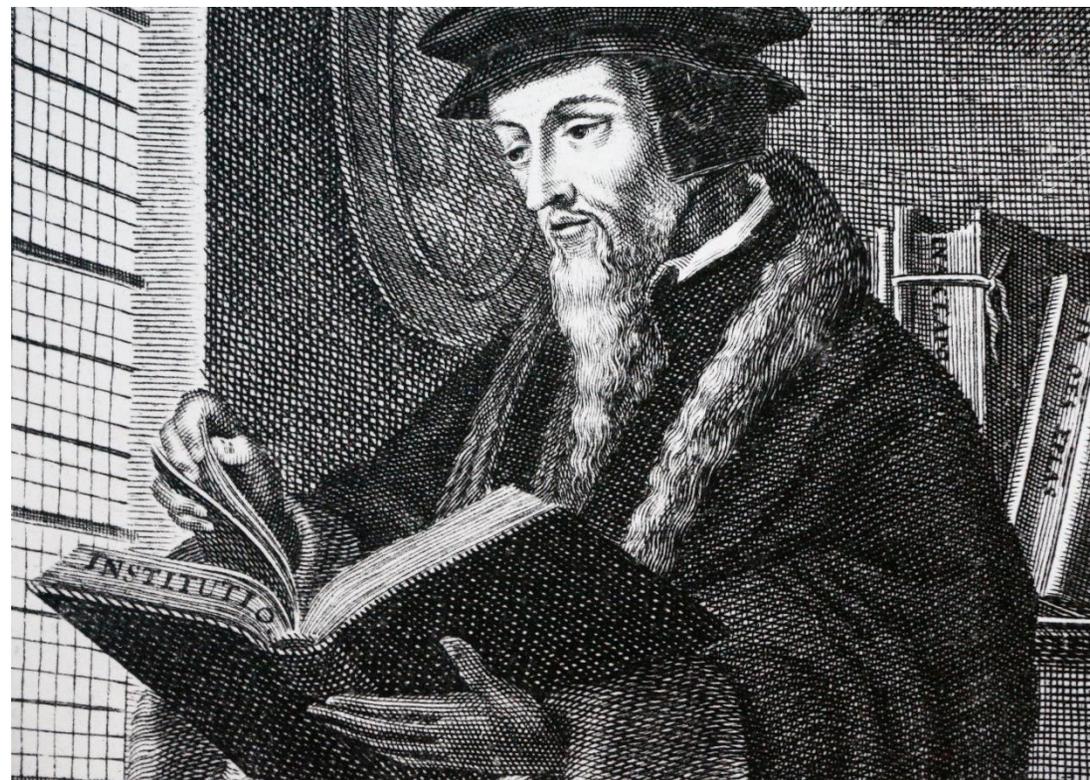


JOHN CALVIN

Biography

- Born 1509 France
- Calvin was born in the episcopal town of Noyon, France
- His father saw to it that John had a cultured upbringing
 - ↳ *He was 8 years old when Martin Luther nailed the 95 Thesis's to the Wittenberg door*
- At age 14, he went to study in Paris
- Learned Latin and argumentative scholastic debate
- At his father's urging, he switched his study focus from theology to law. Continues his studies
 - ↳ Law degree, then studies Greek literature and Hebrew
- Age 23, Calvin is on the run from French authorities due to his evangelical views
 - ↳ He was pro-Lutheran and Protestant
- As France becomes unsafe for him, he flees to Switzerland.
- Age 25, hired by a regional royal figure to transform Geneva into a Protestant city. Quite a task!
 - ↳ When he fails, he is exiled two years later!
- Sneaks back into France, but in 1541 (age 32) returns to Switzerland to resume his Geneva-project.
 - ↳ The last five years of his life he was the uncontested leader of Geneva
- Died 1564 Geneva, Switzerland



Philosophy (major ideas)

Calvin did not believe that the church and State to be separate, but he did maintain that they had separate responsibilities and jurisdictions

1. Only the Church can rule on matters spiritual in nature, and regarding morals and society
2. The state's connection to the church pertained to its enforcement of the church's moral dictates
3. The church should not rule the state

The Bible reveals humanity as having fallen into sin through Adam, thereby losing all free will and the ability to restore itself to a right relationship with God and creation.

Some people are pre-destined for salvation and others for condemnation

↳ Salvation is totally dependent on God's initiative

↳ How are people "pre-destined"? through their relationship with Christ and piety/devotion

↳ Calvin foresaw disputes on this: after all, why would a loving god hold fallen humanity responsible for sin that they could not be expected to conquer?

↳ *Calvin stays away from this, simply referring to God as incomprehensible.*

Though God reveals God's self in nature, universal human sinfulness blinds us from perceiving God as God truly is.

The god revealed in the Bible not only created everything, but also continues to constantly/actively rule every level of the continuing creation through divine will.

- ↳ This divine will is displayed in the bible; both old and new testaments
 - ↳ Though they differ in presentation, both show a unified witness to the one unchanging will of God