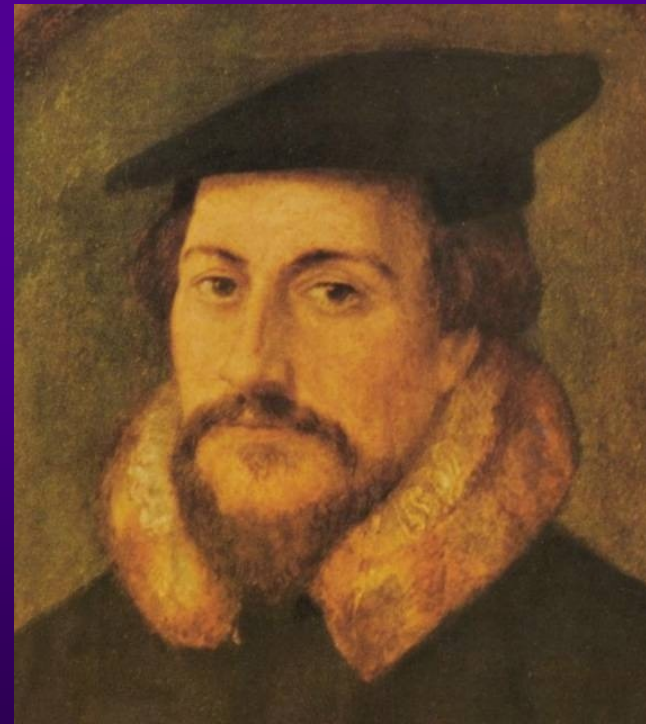


John Calvin

Formidable Reformer





John Calvin's Life

- **1509** - born John Gauvin in France
- **1521** - Chaplaincy at Le Geisene Cathedral
- **1523** - sent to Paris to study for Priesthood
- **1528** - father had fallout with church and John Calvin changed to study of law
- Interest in Humanities and Reformation
- **1531** - Calvin's father died
- **1533** - association with Cop caused him to go into hiding for ideas on Reformation
- **1535** - lived in Strasburg and wrote 1st version of Institutes
- **1536** - returned to France for visit and on return to Strasburg was way-laid in Geneva



John Calvin's Life

- **1538** – conflicts in Geneva and returned to Strasburg
- **1538-41** – worked in Strasburg adding to Institutes and commentaries
- **1539** – wrote response to call for Geneva to return to Roman Church
- **1540** – married Idelette de Bure
- **1541** – returned to Geneva to preach and teach
- **1553** – controversy with Michael Sevetus
- Formed Academy of Geneva
- **1559** – final version of Institutes, 4 volumes
- **1564** – died on May 27



John Calvin's Life

- What surprises you most about John Calvin?
- In Calvin's early life what part of studies most influenced his later life?
- If you were to write and epitaph for John Calvin's tombstone what would it say?





John Calvin's Life

- From this sketch of John Calvin's life, what do you imagine was most important to him?





John Calvin's Theology

- **GOD**

- No knowledge of self without God
- All men have a natural awareness of divinity
- Man suppresses and corrupts this knowledge
- Only when contemplate greatness of God can they realize their own inadequacy
- God is providentially in control of everything



John Calvin's Theology

- **MAN**

- Created in the image of God
- Image is marred by the Fall
- Man is corrupt and enslaved to sin
- Man unable to seek or choose God unless God first chooses him/her



John Calvin's Theology

- **JESUS CHRIST**

- The person of Jesus Christ, the God-man, provides the solution to the dilemma of sin.
- Christ is the only bridge between God and man
- Described work of Christ as three fold – prophet, priest and king
 - As prophet his teachings taught of our salvation
 - As priest Christ's sacrifice and mediation with the Father secures our salvation
 - As king Christ rules the Church spiritually in its members



John Calvin's Theology

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT**
 - Unites men to Christ when Christ is understood through faith in the promises of Scripture
 - Leads men to Christ
 - Without the Spirit saving faith is impossible



John Calvin's Theology

- **JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH**
 - This is a material principle of the Reformation
 - Based on mercy of God
 - Believed in unconditional election



John Calvin's Theology

- **SACRAMENTS**

- Only two sacraments – baptism and the Lord's Supper
- Sacraments are badges or marks of Christian profession, testifying to God's grace
- Believed in infant baptism as symbol of entrance into new covenant
- Elements of the Eucharist were symbolic
- The bread and wine are literal food but in partaking we receive spiritual food and drink



John Calvin's Theology

- **CHURCH GOVERNMENT**
 - Founder of Presbyterian system of Church government
 - Council of Pastors – General Assembly
 - Consistory – Synod
 - Regional – Presbytery
 - Local Governing Body – Session
 - Church government closely tied to discipline
 - Only power to punish was excommunication



John Calvin's Theology

- Which part of Calvin's theology means the most to you?
- Where do you see the influence of John Calvin in our Church?





John Calvin's Influences

- **Separation of Church and State**
 - Church should not be subject to state and vice versa
 - Both ordained by God but have their own sphere of influence
 - State has duty to protect the Church and its ability to function
 - Saw state as Christian nation rather than secular government



John Calvin's Influences

- **Missiology**

- As Geneva became refuge for Protestants Calvin trained them to return home to preach the Gospel and plant churches.
- Calvinism spread to France, Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands
- Sent missionaries to Brazil in 1556



John Calvin's Influences

- **The Protestant Work Ethic**
 - Taught against distinction between “sacred” and “secular” duty
 - Work is a calling from God
 - We glorify God in our work by working willingly and joyfully
 - The rewards of hard work are wealth and so allowed capitalism to flourish

John Calvin

Formidable Reformer

