



**WHAT IS CALVINISM AND ITS EFFECT ON BELIEVERS TODAY?**

Calvinism (or Reformed theology) is a theological system and an approach to the Christian life that emphasises God's sovereignty or control over all things. The key doctrinal elements of Calvinism includes:

**PREDESTINATION**

Calvin considered Divine election to eternal life the deepest source of confidence, humility and moral power. While Calvin taught that one could not know with a certainty who were God's elect, he believed that three tests could be adequate for effective Church discipline. A true Christian, John Calvin taught, could be recognised by his or her public profession of faith, active participation in Church life, including participation in the two sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and by an upright moral life.

**THE LAW AND GRACE**

Calvin taught that though Christians were no longer condemned by the Law of God, the true Christian finds in the Law God's pattern for moral behaviour. Man is not justified by works, but no man who is justified is without works. No one can be a true Christian without aspiring to holiness in his or her life.

**LIBERATING THEOLOGY**

This rigorous pursuit of moral righteousness, both personally and in society, was one of the primary features of Calvinism. It made character a fundamental test of genuine Christianity and explains Calvinism's dynamic, social activism. God calls His elect for His purposes. To Calvin, the consequence of Faith is strenuous effort to build God's Kingdom on earth.

**FAITH AND FREEDOM**

Calvin taught that no man – whether pope or king – has any claim to absolute power. Calvin encouraged the development of representative governments, and stressed the right to resist the tyranny of unbelievers. Calvinist resistance to totalitarianism and absolutism (the arbitrary abuse of power by leaders) was a key factor in the development of modern limited and constitutional governments. The Church has the obligation, under the Almighty God, to guide the secular authorities on spiritual and ethical matters.



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Doctrines that the Reformation age produced."

'The Institutes' stands out as the finest textbook of Theology, defence of the Protestant Faith, manifesto for the Reformation, handbook for catechism, weapon against heresy and guide to Christian discipleship. It is a systematic masterpiece that has earned itself a permanent place amongst the greatest Christian books in all of history.

**A PRODUCTIVE REFORMER**

An exile from France, Calvin was invited to minister in Geneva where, for over 25 years, he preached an average of five sermons a week, lectured to theological students, wrote commentaries on almost every book in the Bible, as well as numerous other theological books.

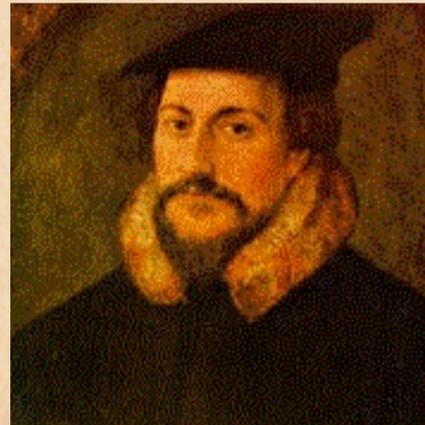
John Calvin stands out as one of the most productive and hard working Reformers in history. He trained and sent out pastors, church planters and evangelists who established over two thousand Reformed congregations in France alone, just in his own lifetime.

**REFORMING OUR SOCIETY**

John Calvin stands out as one of the finest Bible scholars, systematic theologians and one of the most profound religious thinkers in history. Calvin integrated the

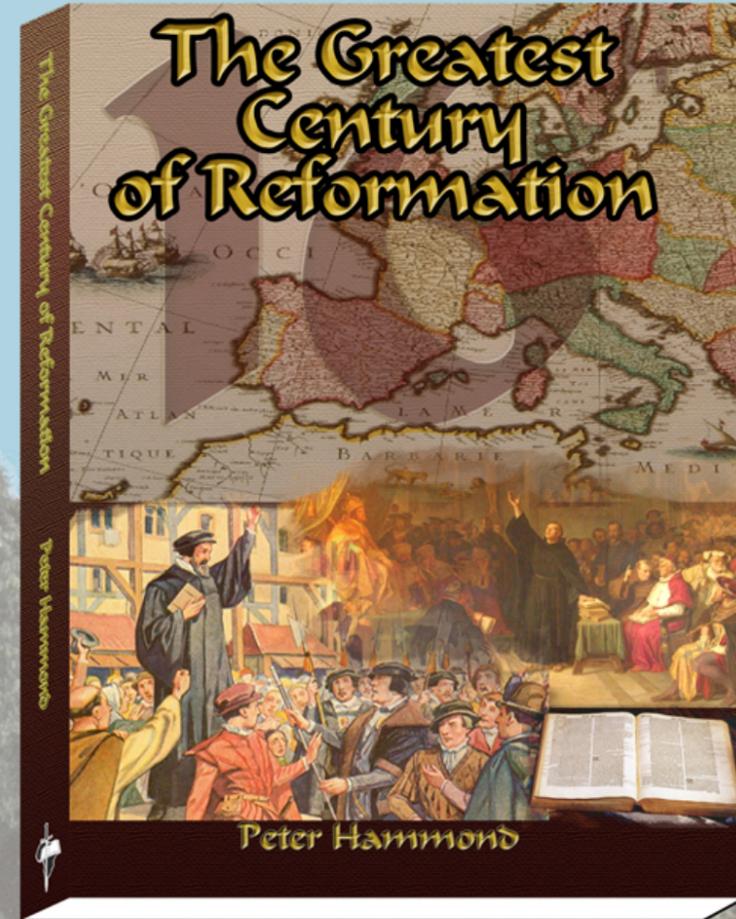
confessional principles of the Reformation – Scripture alone is our authority, salvation is by the Grace of God alone, received by faith alone. Christ alone is the head of the Church, everything should be done for the Glory of God alone – with supreme clarity and conviction.

The Reformation Society is dedicated not only to inform and inspire but to involve, not only to motivate but to mobilise, not only to educate but to enlist Bible-believing Christians in the World War of Worldviews, to change lives, transform nations and make history by Biblical Reformation and Spiritual Revival. See [www.ReformationSA.org](http://www.ReformationSA.org).

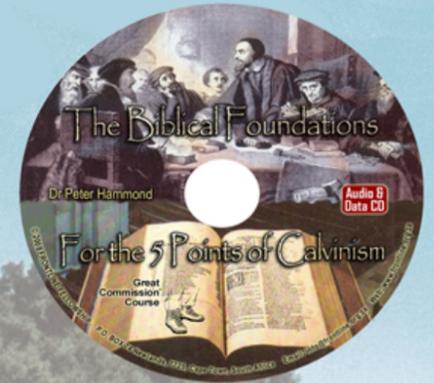


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**RESOURCES FOR REFORMATION**

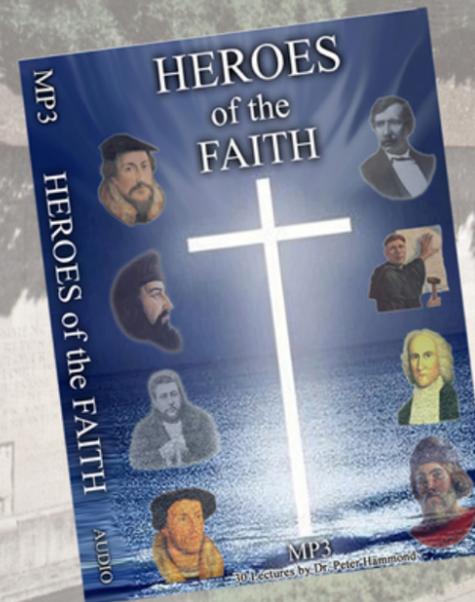


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