

11—Wars of Religion

“The Story of the Church”

Pastor Mike Cooke

1. European Wars of Religion

- A. Knight’s Revolt (1522)
- B. German Peasant’s War (1524-1525)
- C. Council of Trent (1545-1563) Catholic Counter Reformation
- D. Thirty Years War (1618-1648) third of German population killed

2. Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531) Zürich, Switzerland

- A. Met Erasmus in 1516, and was a devout follower
- B. Stripped the churches of anything that smacked of Catholicism
 - 1) Luther—if the bible does not forbid it, keep it
 - 2) Zwingli—if the bible does not command it, forbid it (robes, candles, organs, icons, etc.)
- C. Called them “ordinances” not “sacraments,” symbolic only
 - 1) Communion becomes only a commemoration of salvation
 - a) No consubstantiation (contra Luther)
 - b) Symbolic of participation in the Body of Christ
 - 2) Baptism is symbolic of the work of regeneration
 - a) It is a testimony to be done in front of witnesses
 - b) Infants before age of accountability are not guilty

3. John Calvin (1509-1564) Geneva, Switzerland

- A. Born in France, educated in Geneva (center of Reformed theology)
 - 1) Young genius, “Institutes of the Christian Religion” at age 25
 - 2) Rules Geneva with fear and harsh punishment as “Chief Pastor”
 - 3) Has Michael Servetus burned at the stake over the Trinity
“To kill a man is not to protect a doctrine, but it is to kill a man.”
—*Sebastian Castellio*
- B. Believed in absolute sovereignty and will of God
 - 1) Based on Paul, Plato, Seneca, Augustine, Ockham, Luther and Zwingli
 - 2) Nominalism—God is the sole cause of everything
 - a) Everything brings glory to God, even if we cannot see it
 - 3) Predestination—everyone is either elected to heaven or hell
 - a) Monergism—salvation is 100% God, 0% free will
 - b) God knows our choice because he predetermines it
 - 4) “Reformed” theology becomes synonymous with Calvinism
 - a) Presbyterianism is Calvinism brought to Scotland by John Knox
 - b) Puritans seek to establish Geneva in the New World

4. Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609) Leiden, Holland

- A. 1575 Spanish Catholics sack his hometown of Oudewater
- B. 1576 studies under Rudolph Snellius at University of Leiden
 - 1) 1582 received a grand to study and Geneva (center of Calvinism)
 - 2) Clashes with Theodore Beza over *supralapsarianism*
- C. 1587 Pastors the Reformed Church in Amsterdam for 15 years
 - 1) Serious problems with predestination—makes God “author of sin”
 - 2) Plague showed hyper-sovereignty led to fear and hopelessness
- D. 1602 Receives a professorship at Leiden
 - 1) Teaches Calvin’s Institutes and many other theologians
“After the reading of Scripture . . . I recommend that the Commentaries of Calvin be read.”
 - 2) Teaches against *supralapsarianism* and *double-predestination*
 - 3) Franciscus Gomarus publically accuses him of heresy
- E. 1609 debates Gomarus in front of the States of Holland
 - 1) Writes “Declaration of Sentiments” in ten days to prepare
 - 2) Dies of tuberculosis before he can defend himself
- F. 1618 “Remonstrants” defend Arminianism at the Council of Dort
 - 1) Magistrates side with the Calvinists
 - 2) English attend and are impressed with the Arminians
- G. 1621 Jessé de Forest leads a petition from 50 Walloon Huguenot (French Calvinist) families to settle with the Puritans in Virginia
 - 1) 1624 he dies on the Oyapock River exploring Brazil
 - 2) 1634 his children settle in New Belgium (New York)

Topic	Lutheranism	Calvinism	Arminianism*
Human Will	Bound by Original Sin	Total Depravity; until transformed	Total Depravity; prevenient grace
Divine Election	Unconditional Election	Unconditional Election	Conditional Election; by faith
Justification and Atonement	Justification by faith alone	Limited Atonement; only for the elect	Unlimited Atonement; for all who believe
Conversion	Resistible Grace; Monergistic	Irresistible Grace; Monergistic	Resistible Grace; Synergistic
Perseverance	Falling away is possible	Perseverance of the Saints; elect cannot fall away	Perseverance by faith; falling away is possible
*As defined by the Remonstrants			