

Presbyterian Church

Phil.1:16

- Preach truth; expose error
- History of Presbyterianism – two men:
 - John Calvin: principles
 - John Knox: founding

I. John Knox

Born about 1514, near Haddington, Scotland

- Set stern moral tone of Church of Scotland
- King James V (d. 1542) age 30: only surviving legitimate child: Mary
 - Mary Queen of Scots
 - French mother, queen regent

Knox and pupils moved from place to place to escape persecution

- Urged to preach publicly; reluctantly
- His passions:
 1. Faith alone
 2. Flee idolatry
- French stormed garrison of St. Andrews castle
- Knox enslaved in French galleys for 19 months

English made Knox a licensed preacher to spread Reformation

- 1556-1558: Geneva, with Calvin
- 1558: depressed over rulers of Europe
 - 1) Mary Queen of Scots
 - 2) Bloody Mary, England
 - 3) Catherine de Medici, France
- Knox: book against women rulers

1559-60: Government approval

Roman Catholicism outlawed in Scotland
(because idolatry was banished).

Mary, age 19: charmer

Wherever she traveled she had a
chapel; left priest behind

England: Elizabeth was illegitimate;
Mary was heir

Elizabeth's scheme: Richard Darnley

Elizabeth imprisoned Mary 20 years

Beheaded her for plotting with Spain

Mary left a son: James VI of Scotland / I
of England –raised by Presbyterian
tutors

Knox supervised preparation of constitution and liturgy of Reformed Church

Book of Common Order regulated
worship

Congregations governed by elders
elected annually; superintendents of
areas (similar to dioceses)

1592: ratification of Presbyterian Church
government in Scotland

Delegation of Scots sat in Westminster Assembly of Divines (1643-1648)

121 English ministers and others
resolved to have 'no bishop and no king'

Produced catechism, directory for public
worship, form of government, and West-
minster Confession of Faith – **the**
doctrinal standard of Scottish, British,
and American Presbyterian Churches

Francis Makemie: American Presby.

I. John Knox

II. Doctrinal Deviants

Most today would not recognize Westminster Conf. of Faith

- Modernism has taken over
- Harry Emerson Fosdick: *Shall the Fundamentalists Win?* (1922)
 - Not important whether Jesus was raised from dead.
 - Bible not literal word of God.
- Confession of 1967
- Most preachers do not believe verbal inspiration, Bible is word of God

Comparison

PCA (Presbyterian Church In America)	PC(USA)
Reformed theology	Mainline (moderate to progressive)
Sodomy / abortion: sinful	Welcomes sodomites / accepts abortion
Scripture: inerrant / infallible	Inerrant in theology, not history / science
Men preachers	Men/women preachers

Psalm 19 ... Acts 17 ... Romans 1

I. John Knox

II. Doctrinal Deviants

III. Doctrinal Devotees

Organization

- ‘In calling those who preside over Churches. by the appellations of ‘Bishops,’ ‘Presbyters,’ and ‘Pastors,’ w/o any distinction, I have followed the usage of Scripture – Calvin.
- Destroys very foundation of Presbyterian Churches.
- Yet . . . distinguishes four officers of Pastors: Bishops, Teachers, Ancients (Lay-elders), Deacons

Human creed (Westminster Confession of Faith)

- Acts 8: eunuch required to recite human creed before baptism?

Baptism not necessary for salvation

- John Bonnell: 'Do Presbyterians believe that baptism is necessary to salvation?'
'No': cites Conf. of Faith: 'Grace & salvation are not so inseparably annexed unto it that no person can be regenerated or saved without it'
 - Why quote creed?
 - Tit.3:5, what is washing of regeneration? (1 Pt.3:21)

Baptism by sprinkling

- Westminster Assembly, 1649:
 - Twenty-four voted to retain sprinkling.
 - Twenty-five voted to drop dipping.
- This is doctrine by vote.
 - Bury by sprinkling (Ro.6:4)?
 - Plant by sprinkling (Ro.6:5)?

Predestination

- 'By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others fore-ordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and fore-ordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished' - Creed, 25f.

Predestination: defense

1. 'God is sovereign.'
2. 'All deserve hell.'
3. 'If God chooses to save some, who can fault Him?' (Sweet)

Makes God guilty of ...

1. partiality, Ac.10:34-35
2. deception, Mk.16; 1 T.2; Hb.2; 2 Pt.3
3. cruelty, Mt.11:28; Jn.3:16

Bern, Switzerland

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