

Christian traditions:

A short tour through the lovely and different people who say we worship Jesus



Week 4: Calvinist Traditions

Bible Roots

Habakkuk 2:3-4	Isaiah 49:7	Romans 9:18-21
Genesis 15:6	Romans 9:13-17	John 15:16

If you were to start from these verses and say what the Church should be like, what would be most important to your Church?

Important Dates

- 1536: John Calvin publishes *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
- 1542: Calvin begins his ministry in Geneva, where he preaches 5 sermons per week
- 1560: Led by John Knox, Scotland officially institutes a Presbyterian (Calvinist) national church
- 1571: Netherlands officially becomes a Reformed (Calvinist) national church
- 1731: Calvinist revival begins to spread in New England, largely due to the preaching of Jonathan Edwards
- 1910-1915: Calvinists in Los Angeles publish *The Fundamentals*, the beginning of the Fundamentalist movement

Ways that the Calvinists Differ from Us

- Presbyterians, like Catholics and Anglicans, baptize infants rather than waiting for a profession of belief to baptize people.
- Although there is not an all-the-way-up hierarchy, Reformed and Presbyterian churches generally have regional Presbyters (elders) who have authority over local elders.
- The focus of a Calvinist church service is the sermon, which might run longer than an hour of carefully researched, intellectually dense talk.
- Calvinist teaching focuses strongly on the sovereignty of God, which in its extreme forms means that all events in the world, including human actions, are caused directly by God.
- Calvinist traditions range from very conservative to very liberal, and as a result, there are dozens of separate Calvinist denominations.

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