

Six facts you should know about John Calvin. Pt.1

John Calvin based his views on Scripture, and yet he differed with Martin Luther. Luther vacillated in his attitude toward church-state relations but Calvin seemed fully committed to the preeminence of church over state.

After Calvin studied theology at the University of Paris, he began to doubt his vocation, and he turned to a law emphasis at Orleans in 1528. Strongly influenced by the Protestant Melchior Wolmar, Calvin (1533) came to the conclusion that God had called him on a mission to restore the *New Testament* Church. That led to a complete break with the Catholic Church.

Calvin was imprisoned for his beliefs. After his release, he fled to Basle, Switzerland to escape further persecution. Calvin wrote his *Institutes of the Christian Religion* in 1536. In that same year, when Calvin visited Geneva, Guillaume Farel persuaded him to help reform that city. In 1536, Calvin also published his *Articuli de Regimine Ecclesie*; a work containing stern regulations about how to administer the Lord's Supper. Calvin insisted that all citizens should take a profession of faith. Failure to do so would result in exile. Shortly, the Geneva town fathers requested Farel and Calvin to leave.

The *Bible* tells us that Jesus' Apostles prayed for governmental authorities, but never pressured them or attempted to force godly teaching on unbelievers.

To be continued next week, the Lord willing.

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