

Six facts you should know about John Calvin. Pt.3

We previously related how the preacher and Reformer John Calvin ruled Geneva, Switzerland. He forbade card playing, dancing, etc., and controlled various forms of morality, not just for church members, but all citizens.

A party known as the Libertines opposed Calvin, but he suppressed them. He executed numerous adversaries including Jacque Gruet, Raoul Monet, and Michael Servetus, whom he burned at the stake in 1553. By 1555 no significant opponents remained. Calvin ruled Geneva from 1555 to 1564 enforcing his strict morality on the city. He also gave assistance to other cities interested in reform.

To Calvin's credit, he founded The Academy of Geneva and strongly fostered education by his development of a municipal school system. Yet he never compromised his conviction that the state is subject to the church. Calvin thought that the government should protect the church, enforce sound doctrine, and create civil righteousness.

Calvin failed to distinguish between the theocracy God established for Israel in the Law of Moses and the separate realms of Caesar and God that Jesus explained, the Twelve Apostles practiced, and Paul advocated in *Romans* 13.

Much of the above adapted from Bob's book, *The Great Omission*, chapter 7.

To be continued next week, the Lord willing.

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