

Why I Am Not a Protestant

Session 4 | September 24, 2017 | Dr. Randy White

Was Martin Luther a Heretic?

- Luther's words on Baptism from "The Large Catechism"
 - *see session 3*
- Luther's Words on the Lord's Supper (which he called "The Sacrament of the Alter")¹
 - "It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in and under the bread and wine which we Christians are commanded by the Word of Christ to eat and to drink."
 - "For this reason we go to the Sacrament because there we receive such a treasure by and in which **we obtain forgiveness of sins.**"
 - "Therefore also it is vain talk when they say that the body and blood of Christ are not given and shed for us in the Lord's Supper, **hence we could not have forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament.**"
- Luther's Words on Jews²
 - "What shall we Christians do with this rejected and condemned people, the **Jews**?"
 - First to set fire to their synagogues or schools and to bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them.
 - Second, I advise that their houses also be razed and destroyed. For they pursue in them the same aims as in their synagogues.
 - Third, I advise that all their prayer books and Talmudic writings, in which such idolatry, lies, cursing and blasphemy are taught, be taken from them.
 - Fourth, I advise that their rabbis be forbidden to teach henceforth on pain of loss of life and limb.
 - Fifth, I advise that safe-conduct on the highways be abolished completely for the **Jews**. For they have no business in the countryside, since they are not lords, officials, tradesmen, or the like. Let them stay at home.
 - Sixth, I advise that usury be prohibited to them, and that all cash and treasure of silver and gold be taken from them and put aside for safekeeping.
 - Seventh, I commend putting a flail, an ax, a hoe, a spade, a distaff, or a spindle into the hands of young, strong **Jews** and Jewesses and letting them earn their bread in the sweat of their brow, as was imposed on the children of Adam (Gen 3[:19]). For it is not fitting that they should let us accursed Goyim toil in the sweat of our faces while they, the holy people, idle away their time behind the stove, feasting and farting, and on top of all, boasting blasphemously of their lordship over the Christians by means of our sweat. No, one should toss out these lazy rogues by the seat of their pants.
- Luther's views on the Kingdom of God.
 - Luther taught a "two kingdoms" theory in which God used civil and sacred leaders to exercise His sovereignty over the world. This sovereignty was the Kingdom of God.
 - For the Catholics, the Kingdom was the Roman Catholic church.
 - For Luther, the Kingdom was truth, justice, peace, righteousness.
 - Luther tweaked the Catholic view of the Kingdom but failed to go back to the Bible, retaining the Catholic concept of a mystical Kingdom.

John Calvin's Heresy

- John Calvin was the unofficial dictator of Geneva from 1546-1564.
 - More than 20 burned alive for witchcraft
 - 58 death penalties
 - 76 banishments
 - A man smiled at a baptismal service: 3 days in prison
 - Two men talked about business while leaving church: imprisonment

¹ <http://bookofconcord.org/lc-7-sacrament.php>

² Quoted from "On Jews and their Lies" by Martin Luther

- A book printer printed a book unfriendly to Calvin: tongue pierced with red hot poker and banished from Geneva
- “The tyrannical nightmare in Geneva well demonstrates the failure of the reformers to apply literal interpretation to ecclesiology, which would have led them to a consistent Israel–church distinction.” – Andy Woods
- Calvin believed that there is no salvation outside of the church.
 - “But as it is now our purpose to discourse of the visible Church, let us learn, from her single title of Mother, how useful, nay, how necessary the knowledge of her is, since there is no other means of entering into life unless she conceive us in the womb and give us birth, unless she nourish us at her breasts, and, in short, keep us under her charge and government, until, divested of mortal flesh, we become like the angels.” (Institutes, 4.1.4)
 - “beyond the pale of the Church no forgiveness of sins, no salvation, can be hoped for” (ibid)
- Calvin’s views of the Jews were similar to Luther’s.
 - *“their rotten and unbending stiffneckedness deserves that they be oppressed unendingly and without measure or end and that they die in their misery without the pity of anyone.”*
Read more at
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/frankviola/shockingbeliefsjohncalvin/#r120CjiDORx8qOIh.99>
- Calvin taught “double predestination”
 - God has predestinated some to salvation, and others to destruction” (Institutes, 3:21)

Conclusion

- Catholicism of all stripes was built on an allegorical reading of Scripture that led to great abuses of power.
- Protestantism was the greatest “church split” to ever occur, and brought some much needed change to the church.
- Protestantism was “too little, too late” in failing to protest the following:
 - Unbiblical view of Baptism – maintaining infant baptism and baptismal regeneration
 - Unbiblical view of Israel – maintaining replacement theology and a continuation of Israel into the church
 - Unbiblical view of the church – maintaining a church / kingdom view that married church and state as well as retaining the view of the church as the holder of the “keys” to the kingdom.
 - Unbiblical view of prophecy – maintaining a spiritualized interpretation of prophecy (if not ignored altogether.)