

INTRODUCTION TO THE REFORMATION

In the post-apostolic period, the doctrines of two Latin Church fathers contribute more to Medieval-Roman Catholic-Theology than all the others combined:

- 1) Cyprian of Carthage (195-258 A.D.) and
- 2) Augustine of Hippo (354-430 A.D.)

Cyprian (Father of R.C. Ecclesiology)

“He who has not the church as his mother has not God as his father.”

“There is no salvation outside the Church.”

“The bishops are the successors of the Apostles... rebellion against the bishop is rebellion against God.”

Augustine (totally endorses Cyprian’s ecclesiology)

“Grace is dispersed through the sacraments (sacramentalism) AND only through priests (sacerdotalism) recognized by Rome”

Philip Schaff (on Augustine): “He is the principle creator of the Latin-Catholic system as distinct from Greek Catholicism on the one hand and from evangelical Protestantism on the other.”

- *History of the Christian Church*, Vol.III, p.1018
Eerdmans’ reproduction of the 5th Edition, 1910

Net Result:

- The Church is perceived as a saving institution
- The 16th C. Reformers will challenge this theology.

DOCTRINAL HERITAGE OF THE REFORMATION

by Ron Merryman©

Doctrinal Wall

	← for reforming <i>status quo</i> ←				for maintaining <i>status quo</i>
Doctrine	“Anabaptists”—Radicals	Reformed	Lutheran	Anglican	Roman Catholic
Soteriology (Salvation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation is free to all but only applicable to believers - Personal faith also means that one becomes a disciple in the sense used in the 4 Gospels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation is for the Elect alone. - 5 Point Calvinism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation is for anyone who believes the Gospel. - Infant baptism confuses the issue of justification by faith alone. 	<p>Vacillates</p> <pre> graph TD V[Vacillates] --> C[Calvin] V --> A[Arminian] C <--> A C --> Cat[Catholic] A --> Cat </pre>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation mediated through the 7 Sacraments solely dispensed by R.C. Priests - No salvation outside the Roman Catholic Church
Ecclesiology (The Church)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pastor / Elders: Spiritually gifted men - Congregational Emphasis <p style="text-align: center;">STATE CHURCH Yes – No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presbyterian: Pastors and Elected Elders Or - Congregational <p style="text-align: center;">STATE CHURCH Yes – No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synodical Bishops <p style="text-align: center;">STATE CHURCH Yes – No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Episcopal Bishops <p style="text-align: center;">STATE CHURCH Yes – No</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Episcopal with Supreme Pontif + tight hierarchy -Pope -Cardinals -Papal Curia -Diplomatic Corp -Archbishops -Secular Clergy STATE CHURCH Yes – No
Eschatology (End Times)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Millennialists - Some Premillennialists 	Amillennial	Amillennial	Amillennial	Amillennial
Infant Baptism	Yes - No	Yes – No	Yes – No	Yes – No	Yes – No
Geographic Areas of Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Switzerland, 16th C. - Moravia, 17th C. - England, 17th-20th C. - America, 16th-20th C. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Switzerland - Fr. Huguenots - Holland - England - America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. Europe - Scandinavia - America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - England - America - Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - So. Europe - America, Late 19th, 20th C.

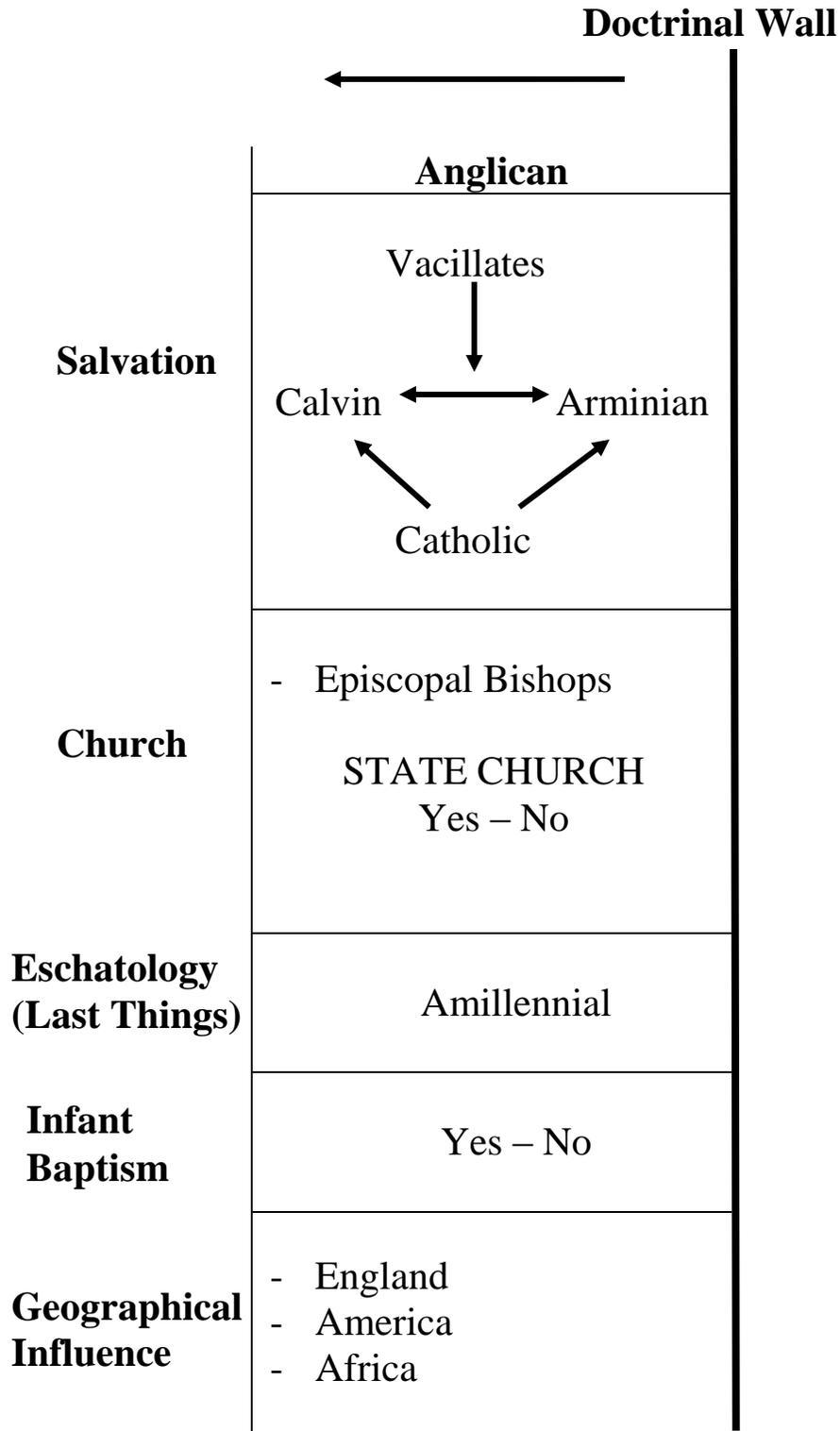
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(for maintaining <i>status quo</i>)	
Salvation	<p style="text-align: center;">Roman Catholic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation mediated through the 7 Sacraments solely dispensed by R.C. Priests - No salvation outside the Roman Catholic Church
Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Episcopal with Supreme Pontiff + tight hierarchy -Pope -Cardinals -Papal Curia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Diplomatic Corp -Archbishops -Secular Clergy STATE CHURCH Yes – No
Eschatology (Last Things)	Amillennial
Infant Baptism	Yes – No
Geographical Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - So. Europe - No. America & So. America

- 1) Baptism
- 2) Confession, Age 7 (Right to Holy Communion)
- 3) Eucharist / Mass
- 4) Confirmation, Age 12
- 5) Marriage
- 6) Priesthood / Celibacy
- 7) Last Rights

Doctrinal Heritage of the Reformation



Doctrinal Heritage of the Reformation



	Lutheran
Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation is for anyone who believes the Gospel. - Infant baptism confuses the issue of justification by faith alone.
Church	- Synodical Bishops STATE CHURCH Yes – No
Eschatology (Last Things)	Amillennial
Infant Baptism	Yes – No
Geographical Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N. Europe - Scandinavia - America

Doctrinal Heritage of the Reformation



	Reformed
Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation is for the Elect alone. - 5 Point Calvinism. <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">T U L I P</p>
Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presbyterian: Pastors and Elected Elders <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Or - Congregational <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">STATE CHURCH Yes – No</p>
Eschatology (Last Things)	Amillennial
Infant Baptism	Yes – No
Geographical Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Switzerland - Fr. Huguenots - Holland - England - America

Doctrinal Heritage of the Reformation



“Anabaptists”—Radicals	
Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salvation is free to all, but only applicable to believers - Personal faith also means that one becomes a disciple in the sense used in the 4 Gospels.
Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pastor / Elders: Spiritually gifted men - Congregational Emphasis <p style="text-align: center;">STATE CHURCH Yes – No</p>
Eschatology (Last Things)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Millennialists - Some Premillennialists
Infant Bapt.	Yes – No
Geographical Influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Switzerland, 16th C. - Moravia, 17th C. - England, 17th-20th C. - America, 16th-20th C.

SIX MAJOR SHORTCOMINGS of the REFORMATION

1. Magisterial Reformers (Zwingli, Luther, Calvin) understood the Church as the community (this is in direct conflict with the use of *ecclesia* in the N.T.; i.e., the church, the ecclesia, is comprised of “called-out ones,” called out from the community, from the world).
2. Magisterial Reformers combined Church-State relations; i.e., they used the magistracy to enforce their doctrine. The State-Church became the norm in Europe. One result: religious wars that culminate in The Thirty Year War (1618-1648) in which 20 million Europeans die, the vast majority professing Christians.
3. Episcopal, Lutheran, & Reformed churches maintained pedo-baptism, a most confusing and perverted practice to this very day.
4. Episcopal, Lutheran, & Reformed Churches maintain Roman Catholic amillennialism. Among Evangelical Anabaptists, literal millennialism began to develop.
5. Among varied Anabaptists: pacifism relative to civil responsibilities, such as making law, maintaining law, and serving militarily, prevailed.
6. Across the board: little or no awareness of the eternal security of the believer.
7. The Reformation failed to correct: 1) baptism heresies, 2) eschatological errors, 3) grace provision for salvation heresies, 4) basic hermeneutical errors, and 5) ecclesiological errors.