

John Calvin and the Separatist View of the Church

by

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Introduction

John Calvin is increasingly seen as the theological spirit who crosses ecclesiastical lines and no longer the personal property of the "Reformed" faith. This fresh view is much evidenced in America and has been accompanied by a reprinting of his commentaries, tracts, and Institutes, along with analytical studies of each. With this has come a re-study of Calvin with new vigor, and added recognition of his key role in the Reformation.

Whenever there is a discussion on a deceased man of learning, the inevitable question arises as to what his attitude would be towards our current problems and situations. How would a man of this calibre react in this present day and age? The same question is asked of military leaders, statesmen, scientists, and people of every walk and form of life. It is not surprising, therefore, that it is also asked of Calvin. Reviews of Calvin's teaching find themselves summarized in an application of Calvin to this present day and age.

Where would Calvin stand on the present issues that face the church? In particular, where would Calvin stand with regard to the Separatist movement in the Church? How would Calvin respond to the call of the 20th Century Reformation; that believers should separate themselves from