

Lutheranism ultimately turned to synergism.

Calvinism produced a works religion.

made ineffectual in pursuit of God.

--The ability to please God, however, was present but it needed action...its presence at best being latent.

--Grace could be received in connexion with the cooperation of the human will.

--Position in blessing was a matter of simple foreknowledge of persons...not causative.

But the view of the Reformed camp came like this:

b. Man is marred by original sin, completely lost and defiled.

--he is already condemned and under the sentence of death.

--He is totally depraved and can do nothing to please God.

--He is totally dependent on grace as the gift of God.

--Position in blessing is a matter of the absolute election of God's will.

The dispute over these things led to the Five Points of the Synod of Dort (1619) in which the reformed and the remonstrants argued over:

Reformed		Remonstrant
total depravity		limited
absolute election		mere foreknowledge
limited atonement		open
irresistible grace		cooperatively known
a certainty	Perseverence.	doubtful..grace lost

And there have been at least a thousand books written on the subject since and ten hundred thousand arguments. The student of historical theology will note that there is still nothing "new" in the position of the reformers or the views of the remonstrants. Sometimes what is more significant is the emphasis given a particular teaching than the teaching itself.

3. Mediating Calvinistic views

If the title is not right, perhaps the content can be close to the facts:

a. Amyrald (d. 1664) is the general theology that God wills all men to be saved and postulates the fulfillment of his will on their acts of belief. It is a very popular interpretation today although not

Departures - Reformation

- Breakdown 'Seamless Robe' ideology
- A voice against Tradition

Big outbreak of Anthropology
Great Sense of Reality
of Grace

Factors in Reformation

Breakdown of Feudal System

printing press

Lack of Morals in Church

Mendicant Orders = Beggers.

University System

Rising of Intense Nationalism