

discern. In 1536 he had achieved some success in Geneva and meeting Calvin as he was passing through the city, he advised him to stay in Geneva and join him in the teaching of the Genevan flock. Calvin stood in awe of Farel and his powers and although he did not intend to remain in Geneva, he dared not gain the ill-will of Farel and so bowed to his opinion.

A vigorous ministry was carried out by Farel and Calvin. Calvin was concerned to preach and free the canton from church oppression. In doing so he cut across a lot of ties. He made many enemies but Farel met all friction with a headlong rush and there was soon a falling out in Geneva as the zeal of the reformers exceeded the zeal of the Genevan government. The preachers (Calvin and Farel) refused to perform communion in a nondescript fashion as sought by the town fathers...both feeling that communion was not a perfunctory affair but a spiritual enrichment to which one came "prepared." Their refusal to follow civil instructions in the eucharist resulted in a *persona non grata* status for both. They left quickly in 1538 rather than submit to the ideas of the Genevan council. Calvin, at the advice of Farel, went to Strasburg to minister to Swiss and French refugees and while there came under the healthful influence of Martin Bucer. He continued his theological studies and married the widow of an Anabaptist worker. She was Idolette deBuerre. Calvin preached to the French congregation, enjoyed his home, and thought of the Strasburg years as being the happiest of his working years but he was not there long and soon found himself in Geneva for a second and final day.

II.6.e Strasburg

The advantages to the Strasburg stay were many, in addition to his marriage. A city already committed to the Reformation, Calvin was allowed the leisure of time to study and was granted a friendly peer group with which to work. His preaching commitment was large and he thereby gained great experience in the public ministry. The pleasant nature of the societal establishment also aided his development into a warmer person. Never marked with robust health, Calvin needed this time for the forming and shaping of his own life goals and personality.

II.6.f. Geneva, again

The Return to Geneva

While Calvin worked in Strasburg, the Roman party stirred things for Geneva. In 1539, Sadolet, the Roman bishop backed by the Savoys, offer a polemic