

Calvin's opposition to the saloon trade was great-- although he was not a tetotaler, a position quite unknown in that time. As it was not possible to end the trade completely in Geneva, he had the council make it as difficult as possible for it to continue and to prosper. The inn-keepers were ordered to be careful that no loose talk or foolish jesting prevailed. They were to use their full powers to promote the singing of psalms and making of prayers. The inn was a necessity, not a convenience, and only when fulfilling its necessary functions was it a credible institution.

A system of public instruction was developed in Geneva whereby adult citizens were interviewed yearly by an elder or minister to determine if the adult might be addicted to the inn-trade and the embibments of the social life. The discussions would also look to other aspects of life. Some of this may have been influenced by the fact that Roman apologists were accusing the protestant leaders of being persons of low moral values who had left the church in order to live lives of incest without correction, but much of it seems to have been Calvin's honest desire for a society that upheld spiritual values and goals. Practical holiness was the watchword. We give the positive side of it in our work but if you want to read the negative side, try Preserved Smith: THE AGE OF THE REFORMATION

Punishment for crimes and enactments of justice were also quick in Geneva. Some of the punishments seem cruel by our standards today and at times appear precipitous. But in an age marked by torture and abuse of the suspected, one had a better opportunity of justice at Geneva than in most places. When it came it would come swiftly and definitively. Critics of Calvin often note the persons who were executed during his Geneva period but fail to note that the number is miniscule in comparison to territories controlled by the papal powers and even some Lutheran territories as well.

By 1555 Calvin achieved a victory of some importance over the Libertines and Geneva triumphed in a war with Savoy. From then on, Calvin was master of Geneva.

## II.6.g Servetus

### The Servetus Incident

As this is one of the most notable and critical things in Calvin's history, it is well for us to see it in fuller detail.