

Reformation - Part Two

Review –

Reformers wanted to reclaim the place of scripture as the foundation of society in moral, ethics, law, and government. They objected to the humanistic and non-biblical errors that were prevalent in the Roman Catholic Church.

They rejected that man was autonomous and could find meaningful answers for life's purpose beginning only from himself.

They rejected the notion that the “fall” was only partial (Aquinas's view).

The bible was to be the ultimate and final authority so man could live with individual freedoms without chaos (were, everyone has their own truth).

Schaeffer begins by reminding us that this was ‘not a golden age’ but a correction and vast improvement in social and political life.

Key Point – An individual had freedom because there was a consensus based upon the absolutes given in the Bible and therefore real values leading to freedom without chaos. There was a strong conviction of what was right and what was wrong that was accepted by the people.

Paul Robert painting, Justice Lifts the Nations

- Justice without blindfolds
- Sword pointed to the bible
- Bible is basis for law
- Judgments by the judiciary were not arbitrary

Alexandre Vinet - professor of theology at Lausanne, “Christianity is the immortal seed of freedom of the world.”

Key Point – LIMITED GOVERNMENT

God's law gave humanity unalienable rights – not derived by the rulers, but from God Himself, hence, government was to be limited. People's freedoms did not come from what the government was willing to give.

Key Point – CHECKS AND BALANCES

Separation of powers, government by the consent of the governed and the right for revolution, no majority rule because the final authority was God.

Samuel Rutherford – Lex Rex – Law is king

John Witherspoon – Presbyterian Clergy who signed the Declaration of Independence (only one)

John Lock – secularized these principles but relied on experience as the ultimate authority (feelings).

Thomas Jefferson – US Constitution – deist

Key Point – “to whatever degree a society allows the bible to bring forth is natural conclusion, it is able to have form and freedom in society and government.”

Two Observations where the Church was Silent

Slavery and non-compassionate use of great wealth.

Industrial Revolution – slums, child and woman labor abuse, great wealth, and advancements.

- Steam Engine and Waterpower
- Iron – from charcoal to coke heat
- Manufacturing – textiles
- Communications – telegraph
- Banking, Stock Markets
- Agriculture to Industry – rural to urban – cities grow with many issues

Amos 5: 11,12

Therefore because you trample on^[b] the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many your transgressions are and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate.

Duet 15:7

“If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, ⁸ but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

Luke 19:5-10

Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Mark 10:20-22

²⁰ And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Matthew 25:35-40

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, ^[1] you did it to me.’