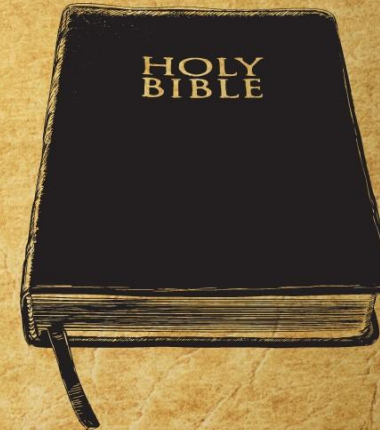


**NEO
CALVINISM**

**THE
BIBLE**



★ VS ★



★ THE FIGHT OF THE AGES ★



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

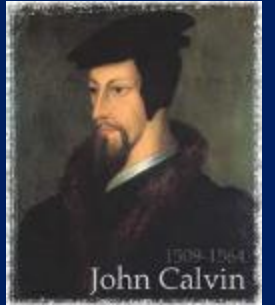
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Neo-Calvinism vs. The Bible

- I. Calvinism's Mixed Blessing
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II. The Source of Calvin's Theology



A. Augustine (A.D. 343–430)

1. Calvin's literary dependence upon Augustine

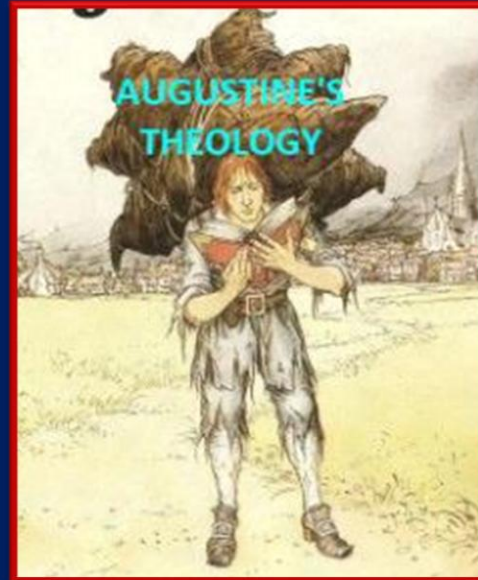
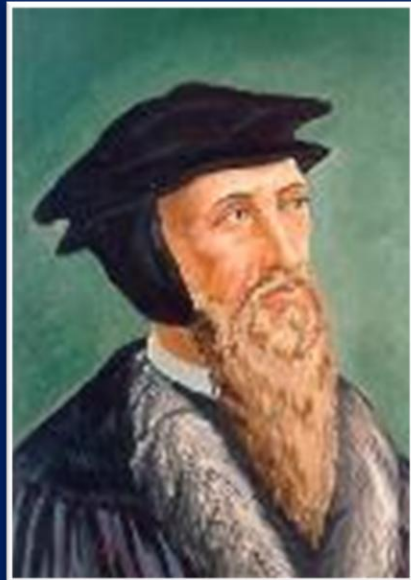
2. Who was Augustine?

B. The Institutes of the Christian Religion (A.D. 1536)

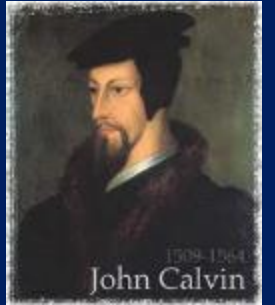
John Calvin

John Calvin, "A Treatise on the Eternal Predestination of God," in *John Calvin, Calvin's Calvinism*, trans. Henry Cole (Grandville, MI: Reformed Free Publishing Association, 1987), 38

"Augustine is so wholly with me, that if I wished to write a confession of my faith, I could do so with all fullness and satisfaction to myself out of his writings."



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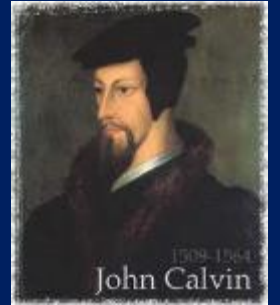
Matthew 7:16-18

The Root Determines the Fruit

“You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.”

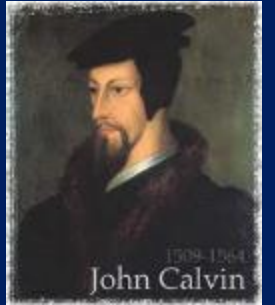


2. Who Was Augustine?



- a) A.D. 343–430
- b) Father of Determinism
- c) Father of Amillennialism
- d) Father of the Inquisition
- e) Limited Facility with Scripture's Original Languages
- f) Embraced Roman Catholic Doctrines:
 - 1) Infant Baptism
 - 2) Mary's Sinlessness
 - 3) Purgatory
 - 4) The Roman Catholic Church as the Only True Church

II. The Source of Calvin's Theology



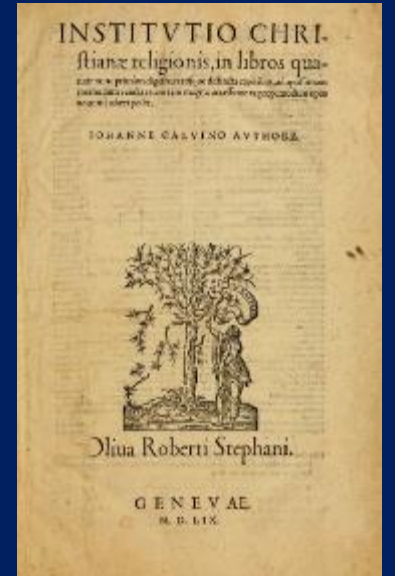
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 3. Written by Calvin:
 - a) at age 25
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 4. Contain (along with Calvin's other writings) no clear salvation experience
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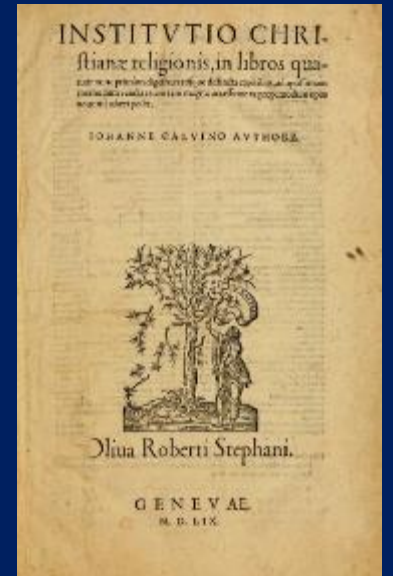
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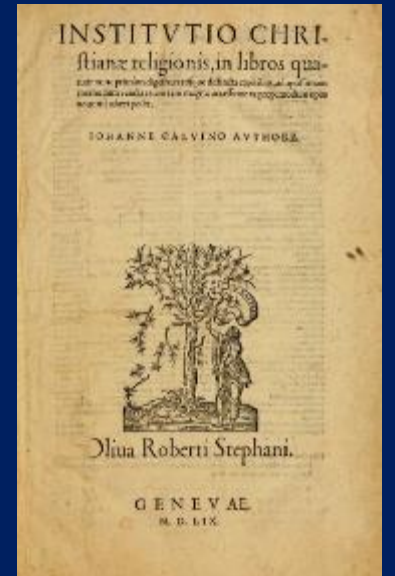
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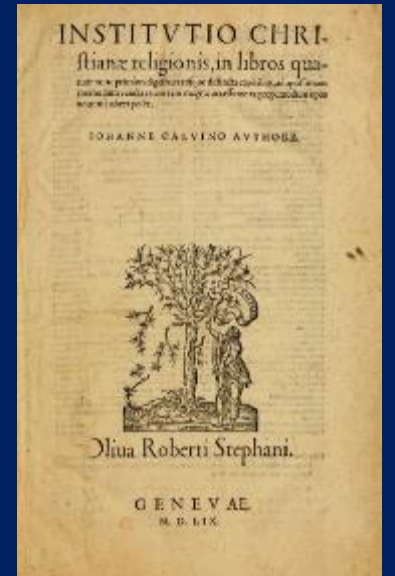
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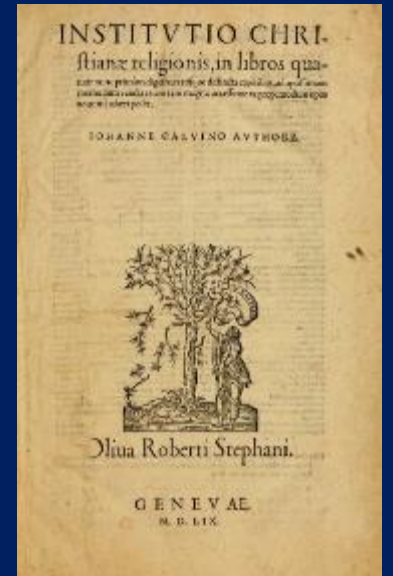
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Calvin's Salvation?

“Within only two years after Calvin declared himself a Protestant, he published his famous *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. In all of Calvin's writing, one will not find a clear testimony of his salvation experience. A statement of his 'conversion' can only be found in his book *Commentary on the Psalms*...If we assume his vague intellectual testimony of salvation was a genuine salvation experience, he had been a Christian for just about two years when he wrote his *Institutes*, which is a foundational resource for today's Calvinism.”

Bob Kirkland, *Calvinism: None Dare Call It Heresy; Spotlight on the Life and Teachings of John Calvin* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails, 2018), 16.

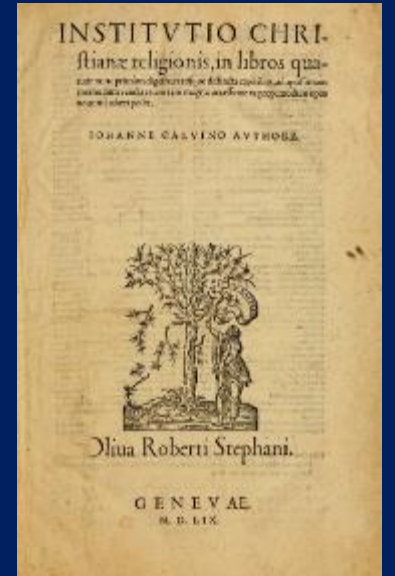
Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”



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Dave Hunt

“Most of those today, including evangelical leaders who hold Calvin in great esteem, are not aware that they have been captivated by the writings of a devout Roman Catholic, newly converted to Luther’s Protestantism, who had broken with Rome only a year before. Oddly, Calvin kept himself on the payroll of the Roman Catholic Church for nearly a year after he claimed to have been miraculously delivered from the ‘deep slough’ of ‘obstinate addiction to the superstitions of the papacy.’”

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“God by a sudden conversion [referring to his sudden move away from the Catholic Church at the age of 23] subdued and brought my mind to a teachable frame, which was more hardened in such matters than might have been expected from one at my early period of life. Having thus received some taste and knowledge of true godliness I was immediately inflamed with so intense a desire to make progress therein, that although I did not altogether leave off other studies, I yet pursued them with less ardor.”

John Calvin, *Commentary on the Book of Psalms*, vol. I, p. xl (Amazon Digital Services LLC, 2011 edition, Kindle Edition), Kindle locations 939-943.

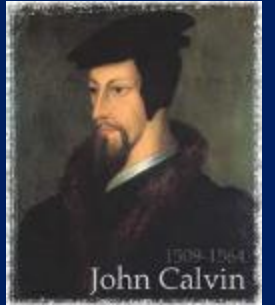
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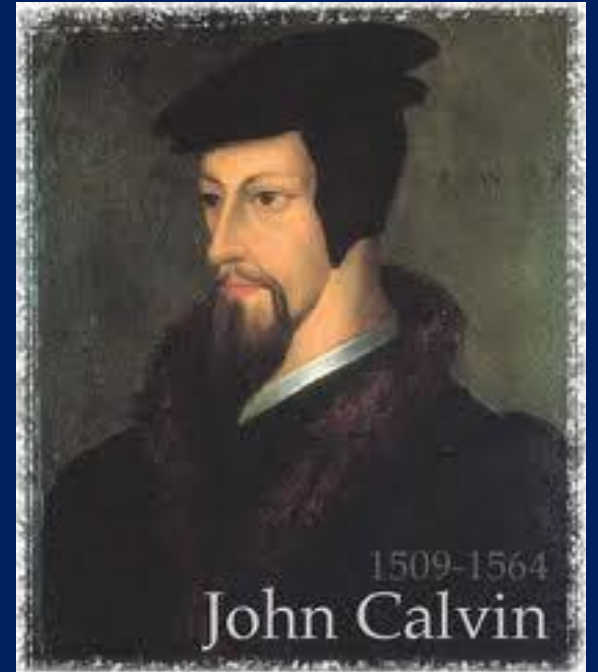
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IV. Calvin's Manner of Life

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- B. Three infamous examples
- C. General examples
- D. The contrary example of Christ
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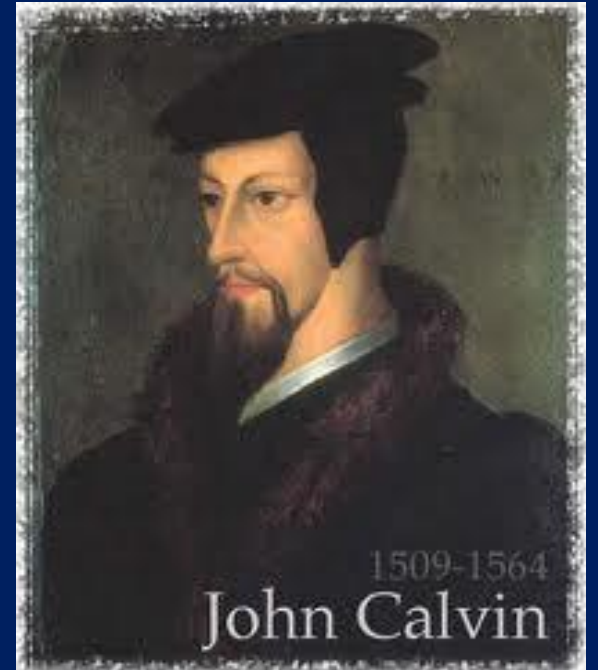
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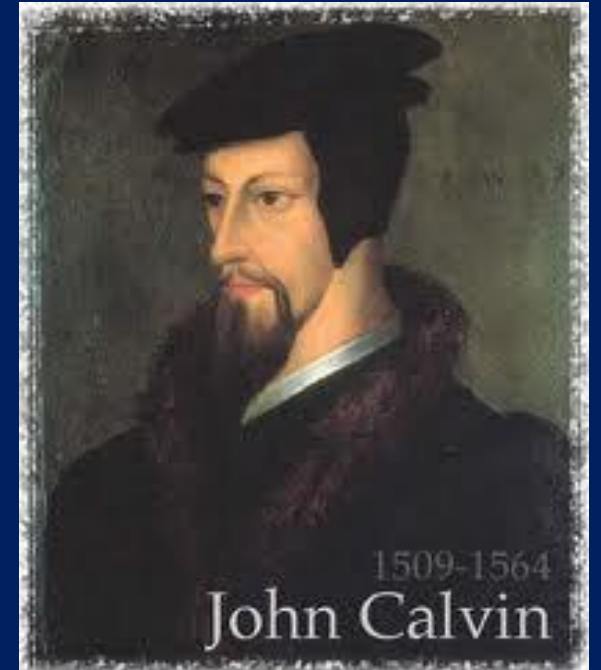
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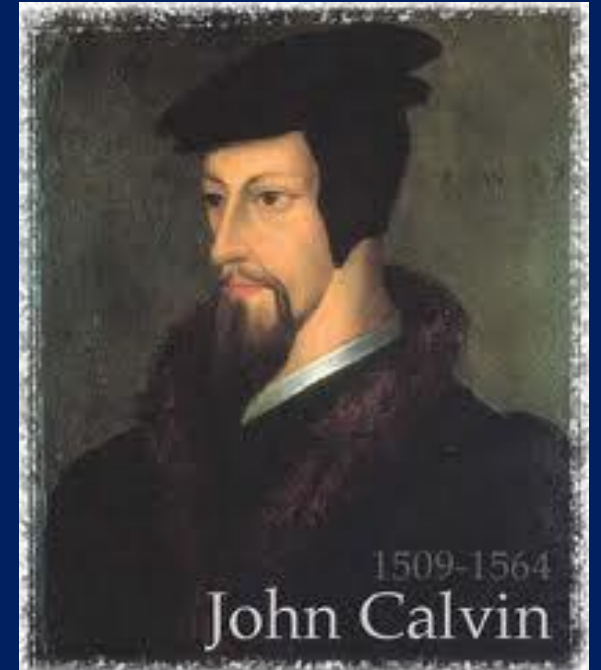
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2. Calvin admirer
3. “Calvin: A Biography”
4. 36 to 58 executions that Calvin involved in
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Bernard Cottret

“Fear of sorcery and of heretics entailed their retinue of hasty, indeed barbarous remedies: imprisonment, torture, the stake.”

Bernard Cottret, *Calvin: A Biography* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Pub. Company, English translation, 2000), p. 181.

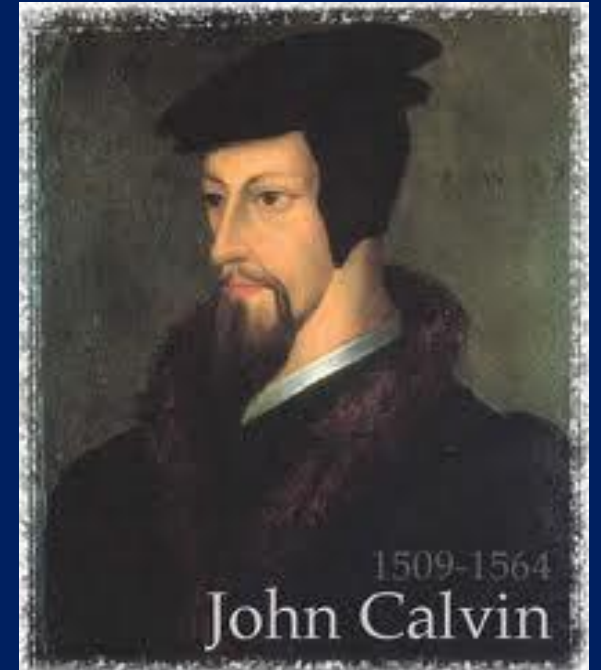
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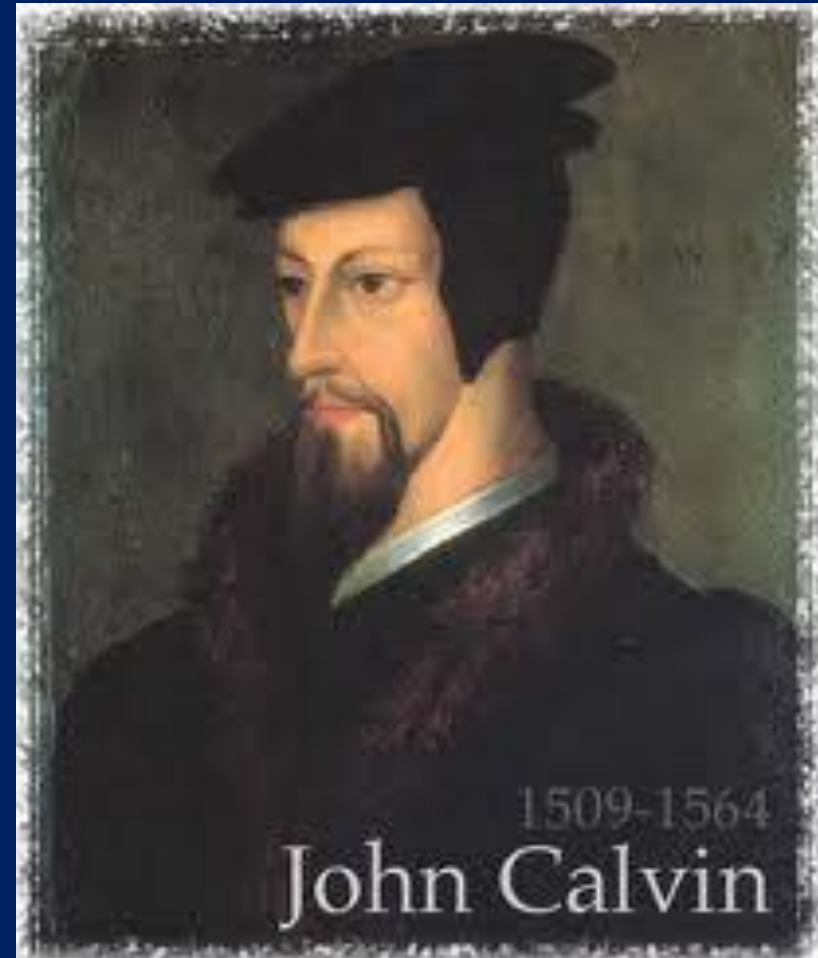
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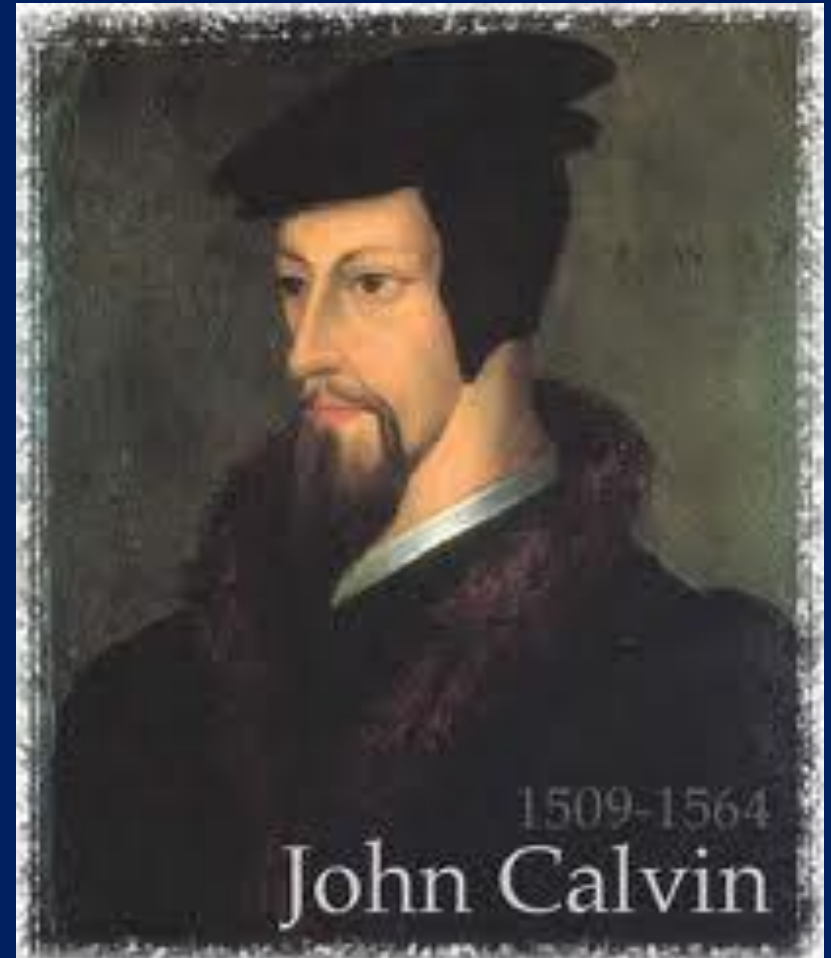
B. Three Specific Infamous Examples

1. Jacques Gruet
2. Michael Servetus
3. Belot



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Jacques Gruet

“Jacques Gruet, a known opponent of Calvin, was arrested and tortured twice a day for a month in an effort to get him to confess to the accusations against him. Then, on July 26, 1547, he was tied to a stake, his feet were nailed to it, and he was beheaded.”

Bob Kirkland, *Calvinism: None Dare Call It Heresy; Spotlight on the Life and Teachings of John Calvin* (Eureka, MT: Lighthouse Trails, 2018), 18. To read more about Gruet's execution and other Calvin-era executions, read Preserved Smith's (1880-1941) *The Age of the Reformation* (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1920); see page 120 for information about Gruet.

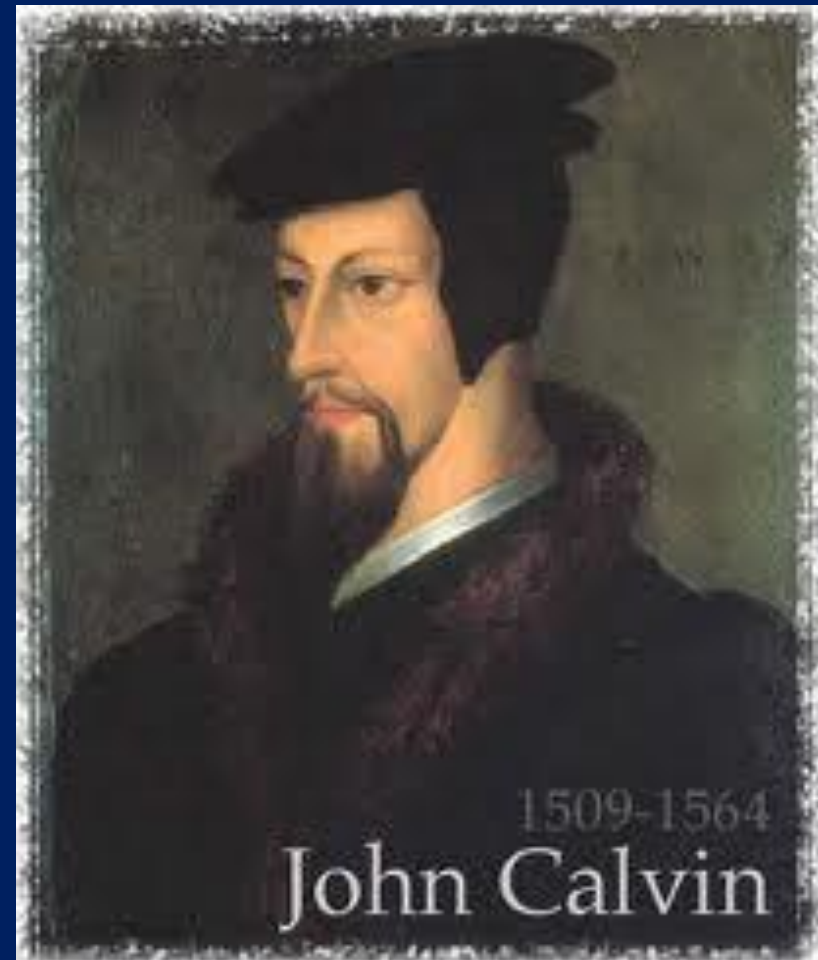
Jacques Gruet

“Gruet was put to the torture many times (444) during many days ... In reality such unmeasured use of torture was in Geneva a Calvinistic innovation. Gruet, refusing under the worst stress of torture to incriminate anyone else, at length, in order to end it, pleaded guilty to the charges against him, praying in his last extremity for a speedy death. On July 26, 1547, his half-dead body was beheaded on the scaffold, the torso being tied and the feet nailed thereto. Such were the judicial methods and mercies of a reformed Christianity, guided by a chief reformer...[Gruet was] subjected to the torture morning and evening during a whole month.”

J. M. Robertson, *A Short History of Freethought, Ancient and Modern*, Vol. I (London: Owlfoot Press, 1914), p. 352; citing partly from: “Stähelin, i, 400. Henry avows that Gruet was ‘subjected to the torture morning and evening during a whole month’ (Eng. tr. ii. 66). Other biographers dishonestly exclude the fact from their narratives.”

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Michael Servetus

“Calvin had a long-standing vendetta against Servetus. Servetus foolishly taunted Calvin through letters; thus, Calvin insisted on having him arrested and charged when he entered Geneva. Calvin wanted the death penalty for him. Servetus pleaded with Calvin to be beheaded instead of being burned at the stake, and Calvin was willing to go along with the idea. If Servetus was beheaded instead of burned, then Calvin couldn't be blamed. Beheading, in this case, was attractive to both Servetus and Calvin. Beheading would be seen as a civil crime and free Calvin from having blood on his hands. French reformer William Farel rebuked Calvin for the thought. Since the charge was religious and not civil in nature, Servetus was burned at the stake. Melanchthon (Luther's friend and successor) praised Calvin for Servetus' death. This execution basically skyrocketed Calvin to fame throughout Europe. It put him on the map, so to speak, as a noteworthy and respected reformer.”

Brenda Nickel, featured in the documentary film, *Wide is the Gate*, Vol. 2 (Produced by Caryl Productions; available through Lighthouse Trails or The Berean Call; trailer for the film: <http://www.lighthouse Trails.com/home/29-wide-is-the-gate-dvd-volume-2-the-emerging-new-christianity.html>). Her online book on Calvinism, which includes biography on her years as a Calvinist, can be accessed at www.CalvinismNoMore.com.

Michael Servetus

C.H. Mackintosh, *Notes on the Book of Deuteronomy, Volume II*, page 162 footnote

“The prime example of intolerance was the execution of the heretic Sevetus. Schaff devotes 86 pages to this man--his doctrines, trial and execution (Volume VIII). Sevetus fled to Geneva where Calvin had him arrested, tried and eventually burned to death. Other Reformers who strong supported Calvin in this act included Beza and even the usually mild and gracious Melanchthon...Obviously during the millennial age, the King will not allow any false religions or doctrinal deviations, and all the earth will be united in the true worship of the true God. But contrary to the teaching of many Reformed theologians, we are not in the kingdom yet!”

Initial quote by George Zeller, “Should We Go Back to the Reformation?” online:
www.middletownbiblechurch.org/reformed/backto.htm, accessed 22 November 2019

Michael Servetus

C.H. Mackintosh, *Notes on the Book of Deuteronomy, Volume II*, page 162 footnote

“The burning of Servetus, in 1553, for his theological opinions, is a frightful blot upon the Reformation, and upon the man who sanctioned such an unchristian proceeding. True, the opinions of Servetus were fatally and fundamentally false, --he held the Arian heresy, which is simply blasphemy against the Son of God; but to burn him, or any one else, for false doctrine, was a flagrant sin against the spirit, genius, and principle of the gospel, the deplorable fruit of ignorance as to the essential difference between Judaism and Christianity.”

John Calvin

“Michael Servetus, a Spaniard, physician, scientist and Bible scholar, suffered a worse fate. He was Calvin's longtime acquaintance who resisted the authority of the Roman Catholic Church. However, he angered Calvin by returning a copy of Calvin's Institutes with critical comments in the margins. So what did Calvin do? You can read his resolution from a personal letter he wrote to a friend: 'Servetus offers to come hither, if it be agreeable to me. But I am unwilling to pledge my word for his safety, for if he shall come, I shall never permit him to depart alive, provided my authority be of any avail.'”

John Calvin, Letter to Farel, 13 February 1546. Cited in Paul Penley, “John Calvin Killed Rival Theologians: Bad Bible Interpretation Justified It,” online: <http://www.reenactingtheway.com/blog/john-calvin-had-people-killed-and-bad-bible-interpretation-justified-it>, 05 March 2015, accessed 13 November 2019.

Michael Servetus

Calvin stated regarding Servetus, “If he come, and my influence can avail, I shall not suffer him to depart alive.”

Michael Servetus

Five days into the trial, Calvin wrote,
“I hope the death sentence will at
least be passed upon him.”

Michael Servetus

“Servetus had written a theology book, a copy of which was strapped to the chest of Servetus. The flames from the burning book rose against his face as he screamed in agony.”

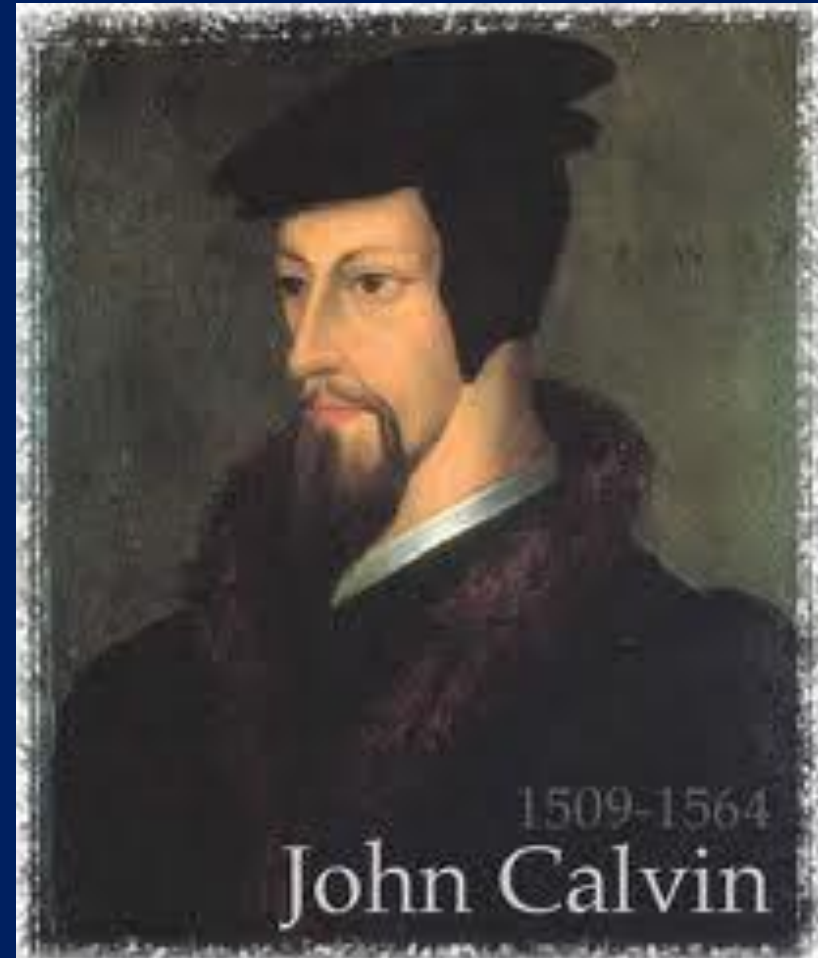
Michael Servetus

“Servetus . . . suffered the penalty due to his heresies, but was it by my will? Certainly, his arrogance destroyed him not less than his impiety. And what crime was it of mine if our Council, at my exhortation, indeed, but in conformity with the opinion of several Churches, took vengeance on his execrable blasphemies?”

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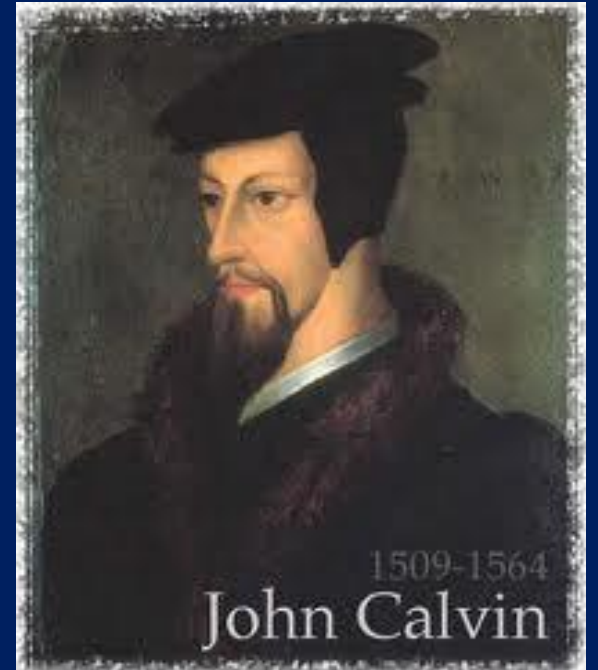


Belot

“While he shared the prejudices of his contemporaries against sorcerers, Calvin the churchman remained devoted to one of the church’s principal missions, the denunciation of heresy and the condemnation of heretics. For Calvin the greatest heretics were the Anabaptists. They were the internal enemy, as against the papists, who threatened the development of the ‘true faith’ from outside. Papists, moreover, were not heretics in the strict sense; their errors were predictable, almost programmed, and less dangerous on the whole than those original thoughts that risked affecting the Reformed world itself. In 1545 the Anabaptist Belot held that the Old Testament was abolished by the New. This point of view might be debatable theologically, but did it justify the torture inflicted on poor Belot after he was chained and his invectives against Calvin were laughed at?”

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John Calvin

Calvin stated, “I am persuaded that it is not without the special will of God that, apart from any verdict of the judges, the criminals have endured protracted torment at the hands of the executioner.”

Calvin's letter to Farel on 24 July, *Selected Works of John Calvin*. Cited in Paul Penley, “John Calvin Killed Rival Theologians: Bad Bible Interpretation Justified It,” online: <http://www.reenactingtheway.com/blog/john-calvin-had-people-killed-and-bad-bible-interpretation-justified-it>, 05 March 2015, accessed 13 November 2019.

John Calvin

Calvin stated, “Whoever shall now contend that it is unjust to put heretics and blasphemers to death, knowingly and willingly incur their guilt. It is not human authority that speaks, it is God who speaks and prescribes a perpetual rule for His Church.”

John Calvin. Cited in Paul Penley, “John Calvin Killed Rival Theologians: Bad Bible Interpretation Justified It,” online: <http://www.reenactingtheway.com/blog/john-calvin-had-people-killed-and-bad-bible-interpretation-justified-it>, 05 March 2015, accessed 13 November 2019.

John Calvin

“How could such torture be condoned? In November 1552 the Geneva Council declared Calvin's Institutes of the Christian Religion to be a ‘holy doctrine which no man might speak against.’ Disagreeing with Calvin’s view of God was a violation warranting the death penalty according to the way John Calvin interpreted Leviticus 24:16. The Geneva city council records describe one verdict where a man who publicly protested against John Calvin’s doctrine of predestination was flogged at all the city’s main intersections and then expelled...You did not get to disagree with Calvin in this town.”

“The Minutes Book of the Geneva City Council, 1541-59,” translated by Stefan Zweig, *Erasmus: The Right to Heresy*. Cited in Paul Penley, “John Calvin Killed Rival Theologians: Bad Bible Interpretation Justified It,” online: <http://www.reenactingtheway.com/blog/john-calvin-had-people-killed-and-bad-bible-interpretation-justified-it>, 05 March 2015, accessed 13 November 2019.

Dave Hunt

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Dave Hunt, “Calvinism Denied,” in *Debating Calvinism: Five Points, Two Views*, ed. Dave Hunt and James White (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2004), pp. 23-24.

Dave Hunt

“With dictatorial control over the populace (‘he ruled as few sovereigns have done’), Calvin imposed his brand of Christianity upon the citizenry with floggings, imprisonments, banishments, and burnings at the stake. Calvin has been called ‘the Protestant Pope’ and ‘the Genevese dictator’ who ‘would tolerate in Geneva the opinions of only one person, his own.’”

Will Durant

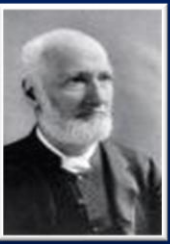
“To regulate lay conduct a system of domiciliary visits was established ... and questioned the occupants on all phases of their lives. ... The allowable color and quantity of clothing, and the number of dishes permissible at a meal, were specified by law. Jewelry and lace were frowned upon. A woman was jailed for arranging her hair to an immoral height. ... Censorship of the press was taken over from Catholic and secular precedents and enlarged: books ... of immoral tendency were banned. ... To speak disrespectfully of Calvin or the clergy was a crime. A first violation of these ordinances was punished with a reprimand, further violation with fines, persistent violation with imprisonment or banishment. Fornication was to be punished with exile or drowning; adultery, blasphemy, or idolatry, with death ... a child was beheaded for striking its parents. In the years 1558–59 there were 414 prosecutions for moral offenses; between 1542 and 1564 there were seventy-six banishments and fifty-eight executions; the total population of Geneva was then about 20,000.”



John Calvin

James Edward McGoldrick, "Introducing John Calvin: The Reformer's Preparation," *Reformation and Revival* 10, no. 4 (2001): 21.

“A measure of legalism became apparent in Geneva, as the consistory put the lives of church members under continuous review and applied discipline to offenders. Church attendance was compulsory. Eating fish on Fridays was forbidden, as were attendance at theaters, dancing, cardplaying, and criticism of pastors. All heretical teaching was deemed subversive and subject to penalties under criminal law. Flagrant infractions could lead to banishment, imprisonment, and in extreme cases death. Judicial torture was common procedure.”



Philip Schaff

History of the Christian Church, vol. 8 , p. 700.

“The Reformers inherited the doctrine of persecution from their mother Church, and practiced it as far as they had the power. They fought intolerance with intolerance. They differed favorably from their opponents in the degree and extent, but not in the principle, of intolerance. They broke down the tyranny of popery, and thus opened the way for the development of religious freedom; but they denied to others the liberty which they exercised themselves. The Protestant governments in Germany and Switzerland excluded, within the limits of their jurisdiction, the Roman Catholics from all religious and civil rights, and took exclusive possession of their churches, convents, and other property. They banished, imprisoned, drowned, beheaded, hanged, and burned Anabaptists, Antitrinitarians, Schwenkfeldians, and other dissenters.”

Edward Gibbon

Decline and Fall, ch. LIV.

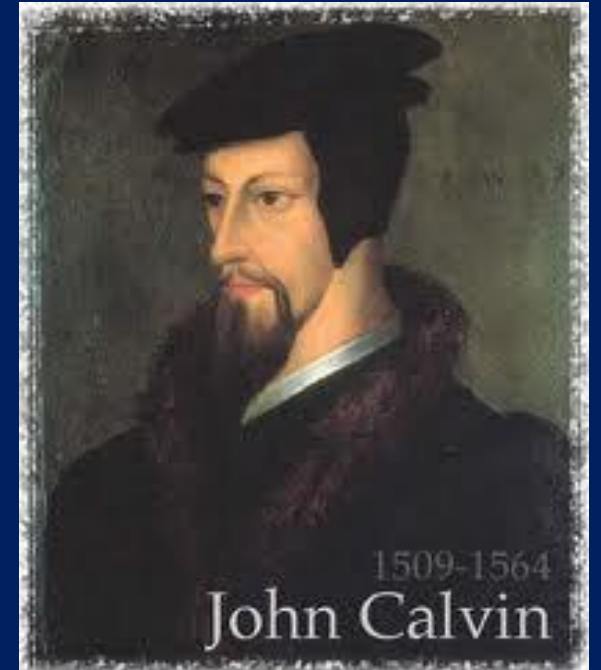
“The Reformers came out of Roman Catholicism which was known for its intolerance and persecution of anyone who differed from Catholic dogma, as anyone who has studied the Spanish Inquisition fully knows. The tragedy is that John Calvin and some of the other Reformers, became shamefully intolerant of those who differed from their doctrinal position, even to the point of executing the offender!”

“The Reformers were ambitious of succeeding the tyrants whom they had dethroned. They imposed with equal rigor their creeds and confessions; they asserted the right of the magistrate to punish heretics with death. The nature of the tiger was the same...”

Initial quote by George Zeller, “Should We Go Back to the Reformation?” online:
www.middletonbiblechurch.org/reformed/backto.htm, accessed 22 November 2019

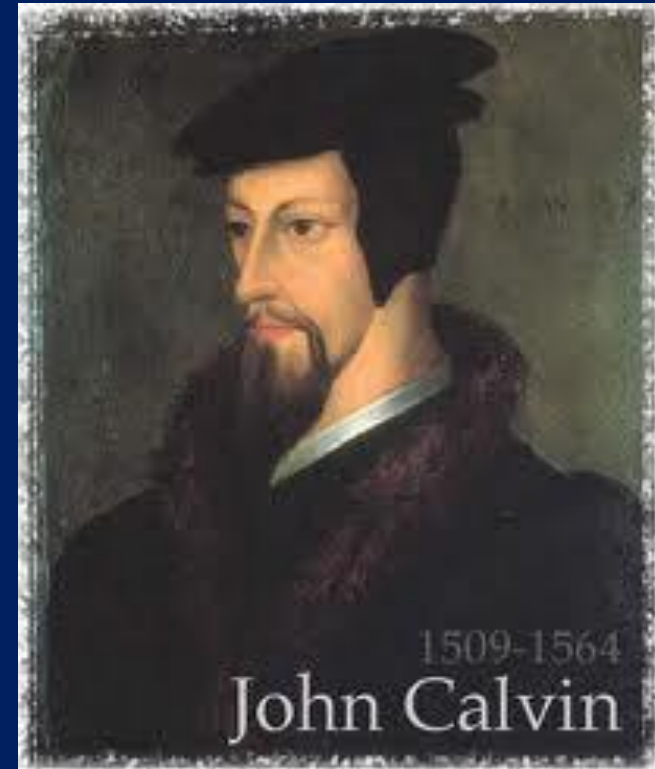
IV. Calvin's Manner of Life

- A. Bernard Cottret
- B. Three infamous examples
- C. General examples
- D. The contrary example of Christ
- E. The contrary example of Christ's followers
- F. Lack of love implications
- G. Lack of love in Calvin's writings
- H. Conclusion



D. The Contrary Example of Christ

1. Matthew 5:44
2. Luke 23:34
3. John 13:15

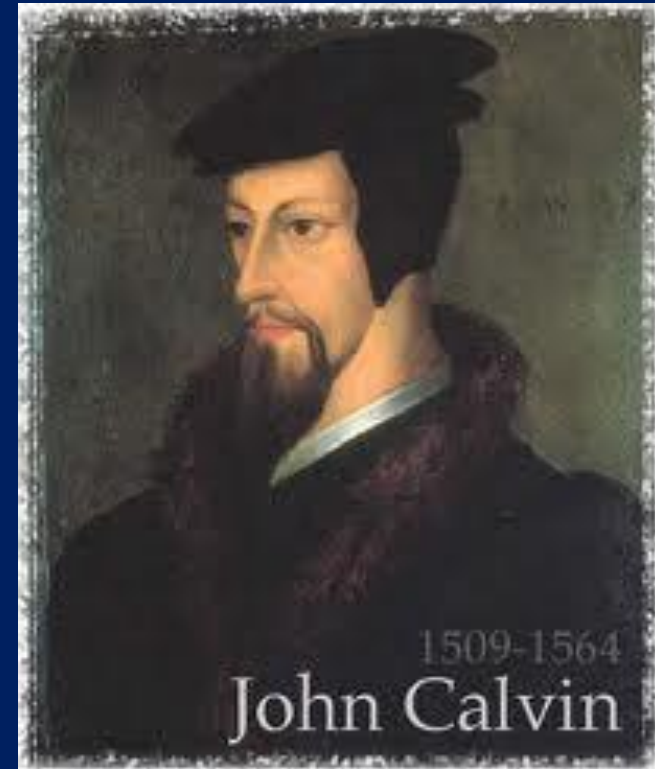


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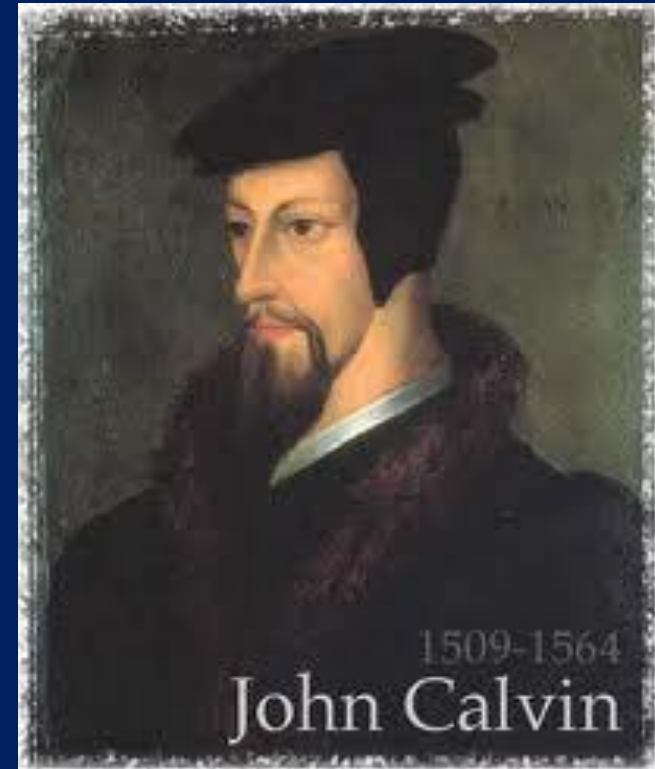
Matthew 5:43-44

“⁴³ You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”



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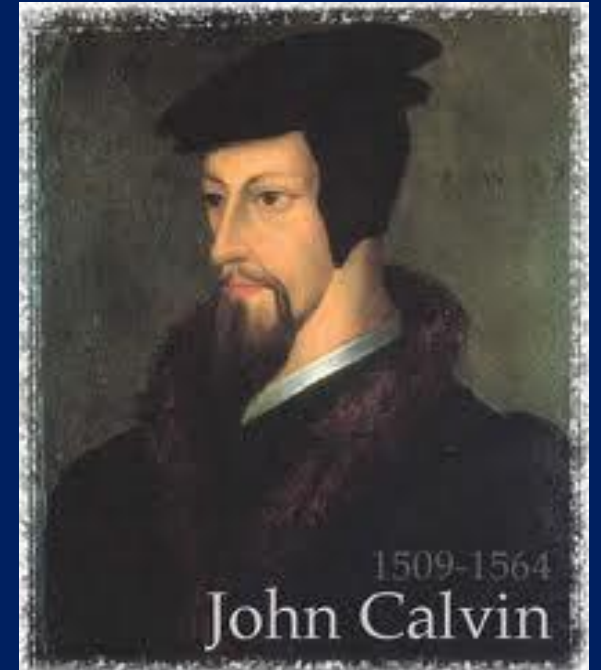


Dave Hunt

“Perhaps Calvin thought he was God’s instrument to force Irresistible Grace (a key doctrine in Calvinism) upon the citizens of Geneva, Switzerland—even upon those who proved their unworthiness by resisting to the death. He unquestionably did his best to be irresistible in imposing ‘righteousness,’ but what he imposed and the manner in which he imposed it was far from grace and the teachings and example of Christ.”

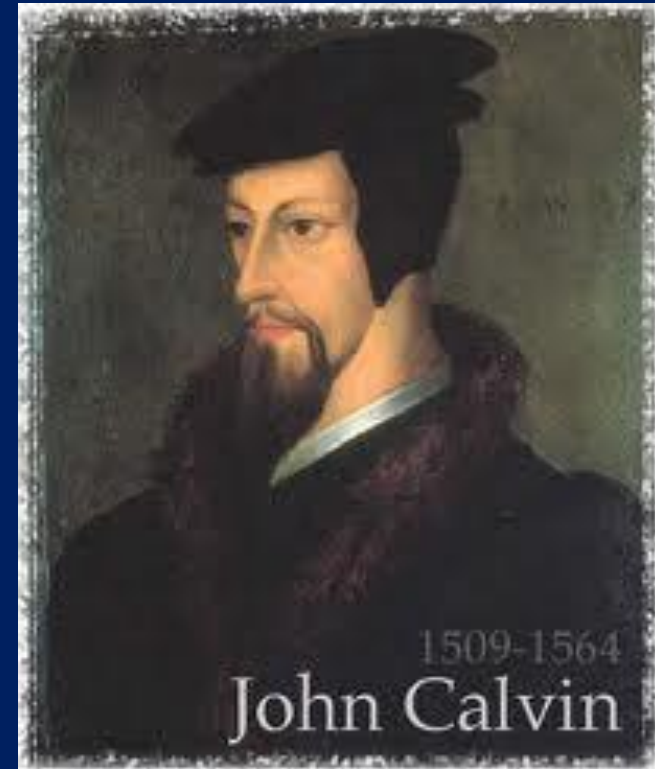
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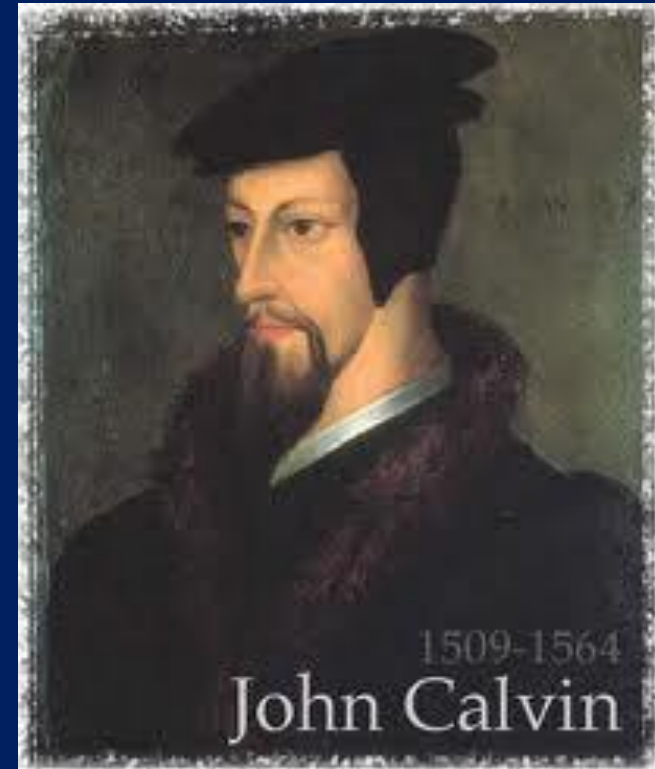
E. The Contrary Example of Christ's Followers

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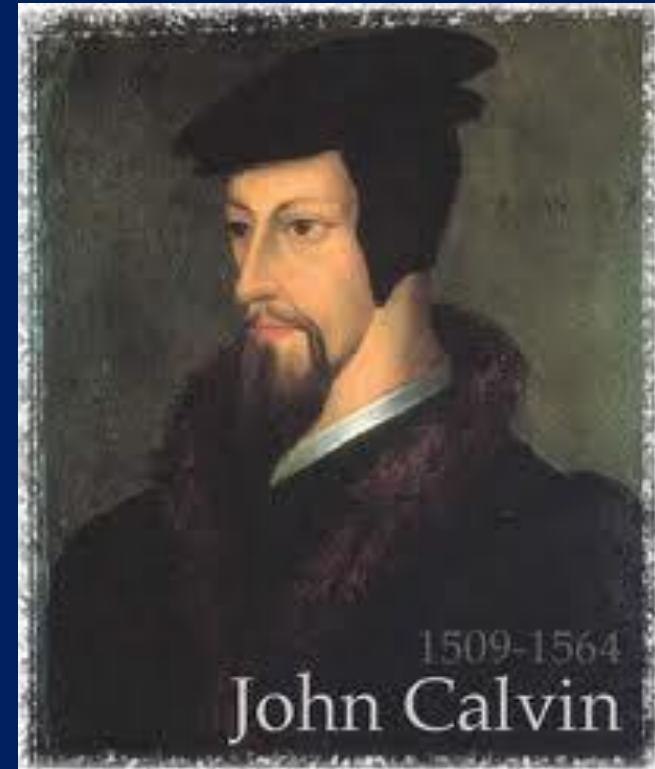
Acts 7:60

“Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice,
“Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this,
he fell asleep.”



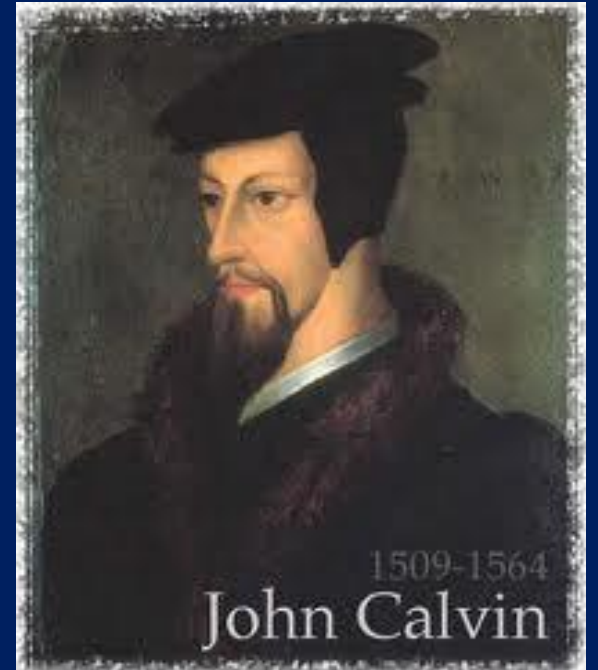
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John Calvin

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Vol. 3, Chapter xi, section 11.

Calvin said of God, “for, (as he hates sin) he can only love those whom he justifies [i.e., the elect].”

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

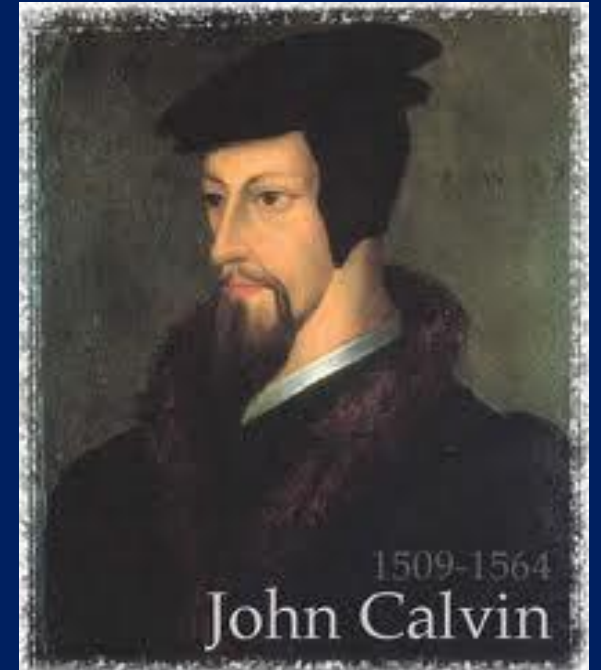


F. Lack of Love Implications

“The primary teaching in Calvinism is the teaching on ‘election’ in that the majority of people God created, He did not elect to save nor did He love them. In fact, He hated them from before they were even born. Under the Calvinist view of election, wherein God does not love every human being or desires that each one come to faith and be saved, it makes sense that John Calvin did not have God’s love toward those he saw as his unsaved fellow man. After all, if God does not even love them, why should he? It is this reasoning that would have made it easy for Calvin to justify the torture and murder of people whom he believed, in his own estimation, to be heretics. But the Bible says that God is love. And He is righteous, true, faithful, and just. Such are fruits of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22, and love is the first one mentioned. It is hard not to believe that John Calvin was under the influence of some other spirit than the Holy Spirit.”

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G. Lack of Love in Calvin's Writings

“You will have to look long and hard to find anything in Calvin's writings about love. It is certainly not obvious in his manner of life.”

1 John 4:8

“The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”



1 Timothy 1:5

“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”



Declaration of Independence



“the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God,”



“we hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal,”



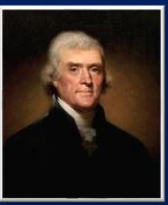
“they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,”



“appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions,”

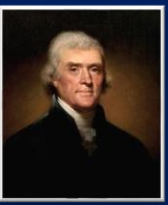


“with firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence.”



Thomas Jefferson

"I can never join Calvin in addressing his god. He was indeed an Atheist, which I can never be; or rather his religion was Daemonism. If ever man worshipped a false god, he did. The being described in his 5 points is not the god whom you and I acknowledge and adore, the Creator and benevolent and governor of the world, but a daemon of malignant spirit. It would be more pardonable to believe in no god at all, than to blaspheme him by the atrocious attributes of Calvin."



Thomas Jefferson

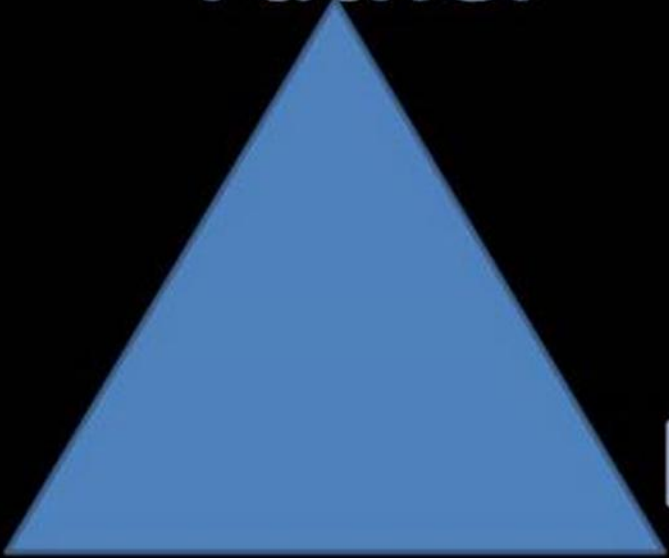
"The Presbyterian clergy are loudest, the most intolerant of all sects, the most tyrannical, and ambitious; ready at the word of the lawgiver, if such a word could be now obtained, to put the torch to the pile, and to rekindle in this virgin hemisphere, the flames in which their oracle Calvin consumed the poor Servetus, because he could not find in his Euclid the proposition which has demonstrated that three are one, and one is three, nor subscribe to that of Calvin that magistrates have a right to exterminate all heretics to Calvinistic creed."

Trinity

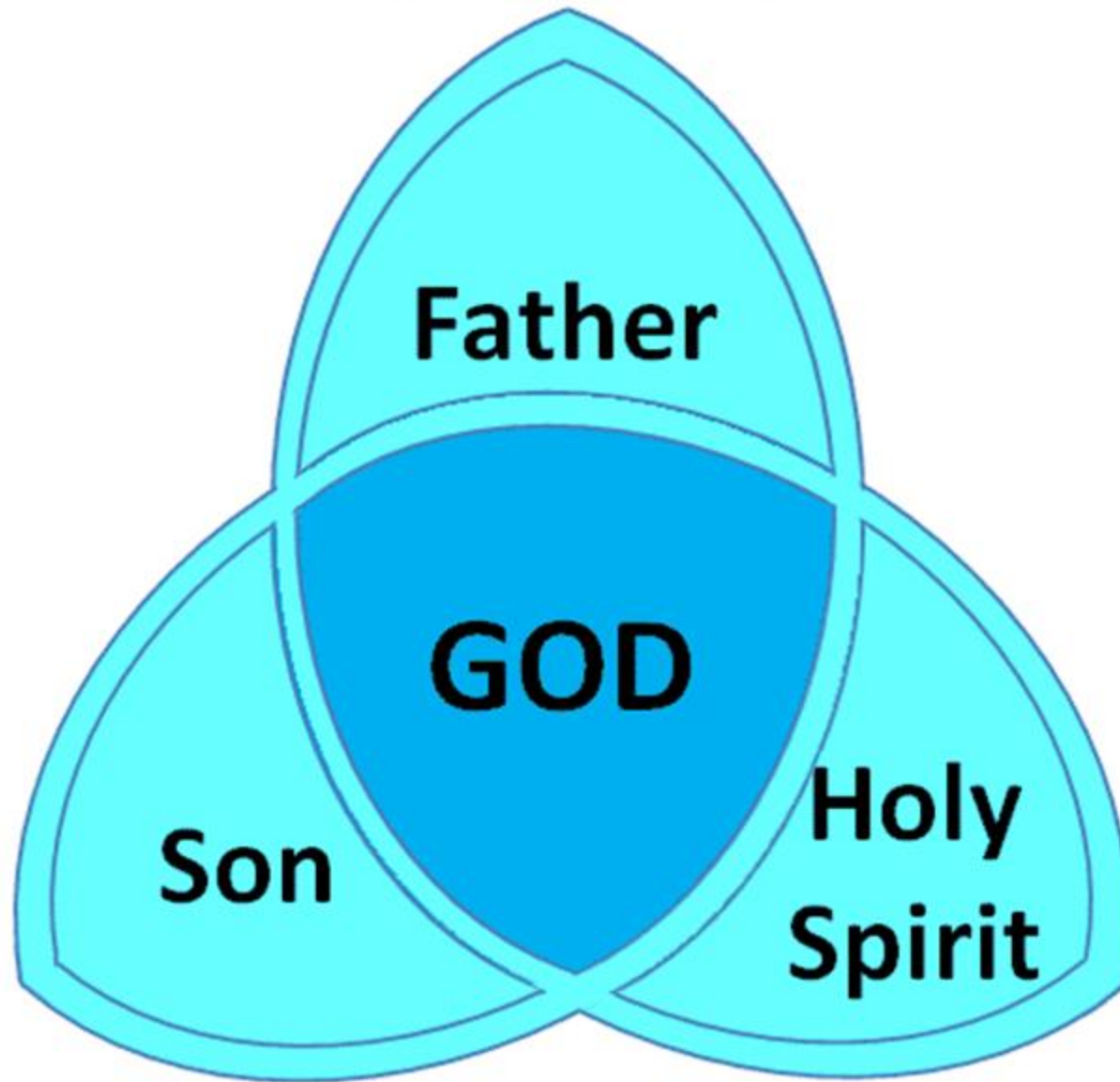
Father

Son

Holy
Spirit

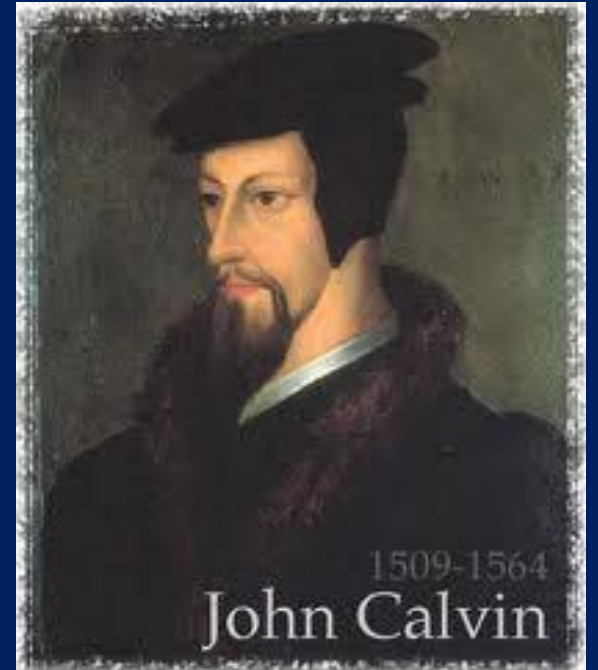


TRINITY



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H. Conclusion

“Will you believe the godly men who wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, or will you believe a man who wrote under the inspiration of the Catholic Bishop Augustine and who was filled with hatred for those who disagreed with him?”

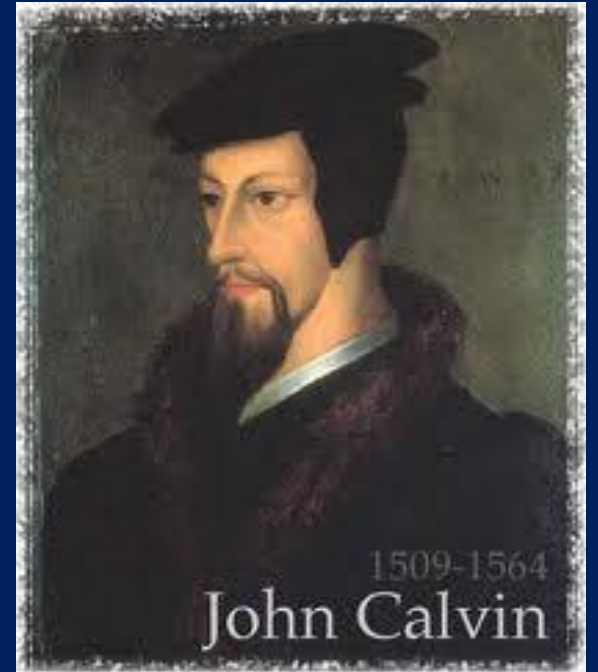
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