

## Proud to be Called a Calvinist?

### I'm not a Calvinist, but I'm Fair. By Ben Townsend (In Red)

John Calvin (1509-1564) Was a French lawyer-politician. He Was not a clergyman at first (How many of us were?). It is true that he studied theological matters at the Sorbonne of the University of Paris, but this Was primarily a training ground for political techniques used to control populations (So, where is the list of these classes John took? Is this guilt by association?).

What came to be known as Calvinism grew out of the policy and writings of John Calvin after he became the ruler and dictator (Calvin was not "dictator".) of Geneva, Switzerland (1541-1564). Calvin originally had picked the losing aristocratic faction in a power struggle to control France. Since all these intrigues bore a religious complexion, the losers often were branded as heretics. Calvin was forced to flee his native France and eventually found refuge in Geneva. A man of tremendous political and organizational talents, he manipulated (wrong use of word) himself, and his fellow refugees, into absolute control over the city which gave them protection against the brutal Catholic Inquisition. Calvin had been condemned by the Inquisition, in absentia, (this guy needs a good editor. You're not "condemned to be burned" but "condemned, and sentenced to be burned.") to be burned at the stake.

Within 48 months of his rule in Geneva (It is true that John ruled his church in Geneva, but the civil rule was in the hands of the city council.), John Calvin caused 48 people to be executed (names, ranks, and serial numbers, please). His victims ranged in age from 16 to 80 (It's almost as if he really knows this.). The most common capital offense was the opposition to infant baptism. Today, baptism only for accountable believers, is a Baptist distinctive (This sentence does NOT fit here.). In Calvin's time It ("It", antecedent to what? "Baptist distinctive"?) was punished either by drowning, a drawn out and slow ("drawn out and slow" doesn't fit here: not balanced writing.) burning at the stake, or beheading (or all three at once). All this was done in public, with city residents compelled to watch the butchery (Wrong use of term). The executions were spaced out so as to exert a continuing policy of fear and terror (This sentence is really bad writing). Others were killed for advocating local church autonomy; opposing the tie-in ("tie-in" is really, stupidly put) of church and state; and preaching that Christ died for all sinners (unlimited atonement) (names, ranks, and serial numbers).

In 1545, the bubonic plague swept through Geneva. Calvin and all his pastors had previously convinced their congregations that Geneva would be spared by God because they were the elect and that other cities in Europe, which had suffered, were reaping the harvest of sin reserved for the eternally damned (this was also preached in England by the Anglicans, so what?). Calvin and his cohorts (Wrong use of term: demeaning) had to come up with a quick theological gimmick (Bad use of term, "gimmick" means "publicity stunt") to explain away the plague in Geneva.

Calvin caused a number of derelicts (How many, wise guy?) to be thrown into the dungeon and tortured on the rack. While the victims were having their arms and legs pulled out of their sockets (please, I'm eating), the torturers kept repeating names of those suspected of having baptistic views ("Herb, Herb, Ben, Ben..."). Under such incredible torture the victims responded to the promptings (wrong term) and confessed that the plague was spread by conspirators who caused it, "by smearing the door latches with an ointment prepared from devil's dung." (If he looked at this quote as he typed it, which he would have to have done, he could have really made his case if he would have just put down the cite. Where's the footnote?) The calvinist (Should be capitalized) slaughter was so great that the smell of burning human flesh permeated Geneva for days on end ("...days on end"? No one writes like this unless they are a modern writer trying very hard to be romantic.).

On March 1545, Calvin wrote in a letter, "A conspiracy of men and women has lately

been discovered, who for three years had spread the plague through the city. After fifteen women had been burned (by the state council (**I thought you said earlier that Calvin had caused these people to die. See I was right about the city council.**)), some men punished more severely (**More severely than being burned?**), some suicides in prison, and twenty-five prisoners still held, the conspirators do not cease to smear the door-locks of houses with their poisons." (**A letter to whom? This could have really helped his cause.**)

In Geneva, a secret police (**shhh! It's a secret that I don't even know about.**) was forged under the name of The Consistory. Every home was compulsorily examined and searched once a month. The City was divided into districts and committees of the Consistory were empowered to search and interrogate all residents without previous notice (**This guy tries to bring this off through the eyes of a modern American constitutionalist. This is not unlike all other countries at this time. For crying out loud, it was the Black Plague???**).

How did Calvin manage to transform Geneva from a traditional democratic republic into a theocratic dictatorship (**When did this happen?**)? The answer lies (**No, stop there, put a period, just say "the answer lies".**) in a skillful use of terror, both of the earthly variety of torment plus the threat of eternal damnation by invoking God's vengeance. This Gallican (**Gallican? – which means: French, Roman Catholic???**) lawyer, (**no comma needed**) was a genius in fashioning a political psychology of terror (**He was such a genius that not one historian ever found out about this until this guy told us.**). At the top was a Congregation of the Clergy. Calvin carefully filtered out all pastors and teachers (**We all filter pastors we associate with.**) who did not submit to his personal domination. Those who opposed him were dealt with a ferocity that even shocked the leaders of the Catholic Inquisition (**Impossible. Impossible to prove also. "You inquisitors are gonna hafta get on the stick, Cal is using methods we haven't even thought of yet."**). In fact (**Facts are always footnoted.**), when Calvin tipped off the inquisitors in France with information calculated to lead protestants who disagreed with him to be burned at the stake by Catholics, the leaders of the Inquisition sometimes mercifully allowed the victims to escape (**That's a good one. Was this written by a Catholic?**).

All printing presses in Geneva and other Swiss cities were firmly controlled by Calvin's oligarchy (**He means "oligarchy", but he doesn't have spell checker.**). Only approved [books](#) were allowed in Geneva (**That's a no-brainer.**). All letters leaving and entering the city were read by the Consistory. A body of Professional eavesdroppers (**Magnum, Private Eve.**) was employed not only in Geneva but was lodged (**wrong term – "lodged" means "stuck", "wedged"**) as far away as Paris and Lyons, where Genevan merchants might be spied upon and their attitude towards Calvin reported (**Wrong balance of verbs.**).

Any serious criticism of the Calvinistic dictatorship (**He may have been in control, but the word "dictatorship" is used biasedly.**) was punished by the fiery stake or beheading (**Wrong balance of Adverb phrases. To balance, "beheading" should be "the sharp ax", which is stupid writing.**). In all cases Calvin managed to skillfully embellish his moves (**wrong use of terms, you can't "embellish" "moves".**) with scriptural quotations.

He had difficulty in reconciling his ideas of election and predestination with the [books](#) of James, Jude and II Peter. So, privately (**which means so no one would know**), he told his pastors (**and wrote me a long letter of confession**) that he doubted the authenticity of those [books](#) of the Bible. Even the Word of God had to be twisted (**No, an Arminian wrote this.**) to fit the tyranny of Calvin.

Baptists, who came into existence upon the principle of soul liberty should be on guard against a system that caused the slaughter of more humans than were killed during the bloody terror of the French Revolution of 1789. (**See, this is NOT part of a book. This is an opinion**

paper. This is what he wanted to say all along.)

It is a matter of history that left-wing socialists (As opposed to those “right-wing” socialists?) have been extremely interested in the techniques employed (Wrong term use) by Calvin (and everybody else) in controlling an entire society. There is an (Not “an extensive” just “extensive”) extensive literature dealing with the lessons of calvinistic (Caps) operations for socialism (If this were even close to being accurate, Presbyterian churches would be socialistic, which they are not, they are elder rule.).

In 1903 and 1908 a lawyer named Nicolai Lenin (Again, guilt by association. Theodore Beza spent more hours, Miles Coverdale spent more hours, John Knox spent more hours, even James Arminius spent more hours at the library of Geneva. Of course, they didn’t study terror techniques.), the future Dictator of Bolshevik Russia, spent hundreds of hours in the libraries of Geneva studying these terror techniques (I know because he left his library card on the floor in the “Terror Technique” section.) for his own application. This alone should give all Christian believers a good reason to pause and examine the nature of Calvinism (This paragraph alone should give all Christian believers a good reason to pause and examine the tripe of this essay.).

– copied (needs to be edited)

*Note:* The above is supposedly a fragment of a fully documented manuscript being prepared for a book on the history of Calvin and Calvinism). Printed and distributed by Providence Bible Church, RD 2, Box 583 E. Everett, Pa 15537, Written by Zygmund Dobbs (We have not been able to locate the book, the church, or the Author or verify any of these – Herb Evans