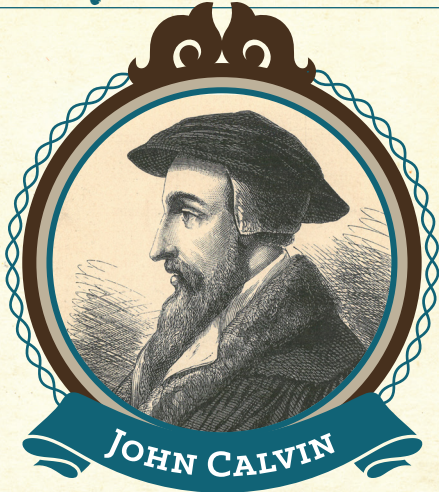


The French Reformer Who Limited Christ's Atonement to Only a Chosen Few



JOHN CALVIN

Born: July 10, 1509 | Noyon, northern France

Died: May 27, 1564 | Geneva, Switzerland

COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE FOUNDER of the Reformed tradition (today's Reformed and Presbyterian denominations). He was a "second-generation" reformer who began studying theology after Reformation materials were already widely available in Europe. Writing in both French and German, he popularized Reformation theology in northern France and what is now Switzerland. He had a high regard for Luther's theology and had an ongoing positive relationship with Melanchthon. Calvin even signed the Variata version (after Melanchthon had made changes) of the Augsburg Confession in 1540. He studied Luther's works as well as Zwingli's and developed a theology of his own that moderated between the two. His theology operated around the fundamental principle of the absolute independence and providence of God. While he valued Luther's writing, his own theology ultimately disagreed with Luther's views, most notably in regard to "double" predestination, the Eucharist and the use of the Law.



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