

The Legacy of the Reformation

The Sixteenth Century Reformation had a defining and far-reaching impact, not only on the Western World but, in due course, on the whole world, through the birth of the Protestant Church. It recovered the essence of the Gospel, but also had a major impact on Western culture, originating ideas which nurtured institutions which profoundly influenced modern society. In addition it reaffirmed the Lordship of Christ over the whole of life and, it can be argued, created impulses for the worldwide expansion of the church through the birth of the modern missionary movement. We will explore some of these ideas in this presentation.

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I. It recovered the essence of the Gospel

II. It had a major impact on Institutions in the Western World.

III. It reaffirmed the Lordship of Christ over the whole of Creation, and bridged the secular/sacred divide

A. For example: the visual arts-music and painting

B. For example: concern for all of creation.

IV. It prepared the ground for the modern day missionary movement, and the global expansion of the church.

Suggested Readings:

Christianity's Dangerous Idea- The Protestant Revolution- Alister McGrath pub. Harper
*Reformed Theology and Visual Culture-*William Dyrness pub. Cambridge University Press
The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy- article in the American Political Science Review-
Woodberry

Working for Our Neighbour- a Lutheran primer on economic and ordinary life. Gene Veith
Jean Calvin et la mission de l'Eglise (John Calvin and the Mission of the Church) by Andrew
Buckler published by Olivetan.
pub PBU France.

The Beauty of God Theology and the Arts. especially an article by E.John Walford ' The Case for
Broken Beauty. An Art Historical Viewpoint. pub. IVP Academic 2007.