

Discipleship and Obedience

Whether because of Luther's experience in the monastery or because Reformed Protestants spread particularly in cities where there was a great deal of concern for public morality, the Reformed Churches tended to put more emphasis on behavior than the Lutherans did. Calvin in particular established church institutions that were intended to help people live out their faith. The notorious Genevan Consistory, despite its reputation as a bunch of clerical busybodies, was in reality focused on discipleship and improving people's practice of the faith, and the General Hospital and the *Bourses* provided for the physical needs of people in the community in response to the social implications of the Gospel.

Glenn Sunshine (PhD University of Wisconsin, Madison) is professor of history at the Central Connecticut State University, a Research Fellow of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, and a faculty member of the Centurions Program at Breakpoint, the worldview training ministry of PFM. An award winning author, Glenn has published several books and numerous articles on history, theology, and culture online and on both sides of the Atlantic, and is a regular columnist for the *Worldview Journal* of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview. Glenn has taught a variety of Bible, history, and worldview seminars and courses to churches around the U.S. and in Europe, as well as leading church retreats, seminars, and renewal weekends. He was the content consultant for *Wide Angle* and for *Walk the Talk*, worldview training curricula featuring Chuck Colson, Rick Warren, and Gerard Long. He is featured with Chuck Colson on *Worldview and Why It Matters: An Introduction to Christian Worldview*, a leadership training course produced by the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, and appears on Acton Media's *The Birth of Freedom*, a documentary released on DVD in 2008, and on *Doing the Right Thing*, an ethics curriculum released in 2011.

I. The Concern for Public Morality

A. The Price Revolution

B. Social Instability

C. Responses

II. Luther and Obeying God

A. Experience in the Monastery

B. Luther and Obedience

1. No Connection between Obedience and Salvation

2. The Uses of the Law

3. Stephen Ozment on the Failure of Luther's Answer

III. Reformed Answers

A. Urban Environment

B. Faith should lead to Changed Lives

1. Obedience as a Consequence (not a Cause) of Salvation

2. Church Responsible to Encourage This

C. Bucer on Discipline

1. Pastors and Lay Elders

2. "Christian Fellowships"

D. Discipline in Geneva

1. Pastors and Lay Elders

2. The Consistory

a) How did it work?

b) What were its concerns?

c) What sanctions could it impose?

3. Results

E. Social Welfare as a Christian Responsibility

1. General Hospital

2. The *Bourses*