

The Significance of the Trinity: How Trinitarian Theology Underpins the Great Doctrines of the Reformation

Can we ever afford to be vague about the nature and identity of our God? Reformational thought is often portrayed as having little concern for the doctrine of God and for trinitarian theology. By looking at the challenges that the trinitarianism of the early Reformers presented to the Roman Catholic theology of their day, and how, in the theology of Calvin and the Reformed tradition, the triune being of God came to constitute the shape of all Christian belief, this session will argue that the theology of the mainstream Reformers drew from – and could only have grown in – explicitly trinitarian soil.

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I. Peter Lombard, Thomas Aquinas, and the medieval context

II. Martin Luther and the Early Reformation

III. John Calvin

IV. Trinitarianism in the Reformed Tradition

V. Antitrinitarianism: Servetus, Socinus, and the Radical Reformers

VI. Rome's Counter-Reformation

Suggested Readings:

Luther, Martin, *Luther's Large Catechism* (Saint Louis, MO: Concordia, 1978)

Muller, Richard A.. *Post-Reformation Reformed Dogmatics*. Vol. 4, The Triunity of God. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003.

Schwöbel, Christoph. "The Triune God of Grace: The Doctrine of the Trinity in the Theology of the Reformers." In *The Christian Understanding of God Today*, ed. J. M. Byrne. Dublin: Columba Press, 1993, 49-64.

Warfield, B. B. "Calvin's Doctrine of the Trinity." In *Calvin and Augustine*, ed. Samuel G. Craig. Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1974, 187-284.