

Understanding the Roots of Theological Liberalism: Friedrich Schleiermacher

Friedrich Schleiermacher is known as the father of ‘modern’ or liberal theology. What made his thought so distinctive, revolutionary, and influential? This workshop will seek to understand the roots of theological liberalism through an analysis of Schleiermacher’s thought.

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I. Schleiermacher’s life and context

II. *The Christian Faith*

The essence of piety is ‘the consciousness of being absolutely dependent.’¹
Schleiermacher

A. The evolution of religion

¹ *The Christian Faith* (2nd ed. of *Der Christliche Glaube*, 1830–1), eds. H. R. Mackintosh & J. S. Stewart (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1999), §4

III. What is Christianity?

A. Jonathan Edwards vs. Friedrich Schleiermacher

'Christian doctrines are accounts of the Christian religious affections set forth in speech.'²
Schleiermacher

IV. Schleiermacher's reinvention of theology

A. Creation

B. God

C. Sin

D. Christ

² Ibid., §15

E. Redemption

V. How Schleiermacher helps us understand theological liberalism

Suggested Readings:

Michael Reeves, *Theologians You Should Know* (Wheaton, IL.: Crossway, 2016)