

The Reformation's Impact on Education

Luther and Calvin, especially, emphasized the importance of education for the evangelical Protestant cause and for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ. According to the Reformers, both mass education and academic learning were essential. This lecture deals with the questions of why and how the Reformation had a considerable impact on education, and through it on the scientific, economic, and political thought of Protestant nations.

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I. Why did the Protestant Reformers emphasize the role of education?

- A. The Reformation was an academic movement

- B. The importance of universities and their curricula
 - 1. The need for trained clergy

 - 2. Genevan Academy

II. The core Reformed reasons for emphasizing the importance of mass education

- A. The Scriptural principle
 - 1. The Protestant doctrine of authority

 - 2. God speaks through spoken and written Word

 - 3. The importance of personal biblical faith

- B. The importance of the ability to read and understand the text
 - 1. The priesthood of all believers

 - 2. The need for a personal ability to understand

3. The need for hermeneutical tools

III. The Protestant missionary impulse

A. The Great Commission, Mt. 28:18–20

B. Vernacular Bible translations

IV. The emphasis on mass education

A. Printing technology

B. The development of mass media

C. Fostering of classical republican civil virtues

Suggested readings:

Androne, Mihai, “The influence of the protestant reformation on education”, *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences* 137 (2014), 80–87.

Ryken, Leland, “Calvinism and Literature”, *Calvin and Culture: Exploring A Worldview*, ed. by David W. Hall and Marvin Padgett (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2010), 95–113.

Woodberry, Robert D., “The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy”, *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 106, No. 2 (May 2012), 244–274.