

John Calvin

# Calvinism (Reformed and Presbyterians)

- Roughly 60-80 million members
- Main denomination today are the Presbyterians
  - Presbyterian Church USA – 1.76 million members
  - Presbyterian Church in America – 367,000 members
- Churches that have split off from Calvinism:
  - Baptists, Congregationalists, Church of Christ, 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists
- Origins go back to John Calvin in the 1500's.
  
- With thanks to Pastor Andrew Barnes, Christ Presbyterian Church, Grandview
- Also w/thanks to Pastor Harold Miller, Covenant Reformed Church, Kansas City
- 29 Presbyterian churches in Kansas City (only 5 PCA), with another 3 Reformed churches
- With thanks to Pastor Chris Harper of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Rochester

# Material Principle

## LCMS

- Justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

## Presbyterian

- Sovereignty of God – all things are under God's rule and control, and nothing happens without His direction or permission
- Theocentric
- Pr. Harper and Pr. Barnes – PCA would hold our view of Justification as the material principle.

# Formal Principle

## LCMS

- Scripture (OT and NT)

## Presbyterian

- Scripture (OT and NT)
  - Legalism
  - Scripture calls for requirements for Christian living
  - If not prescribed in worship, then forbidden (sign of cross)
  - Not to be interpreted contrary to reason

# God

## LCMS

- Biblical Trinity

## Presbyterian

- Biblical Trinity

# The Person of Jesus

## LCMS

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

## Presbyterian

- Incarnation
- Both God and man
  - No communion of the attributes

# The Work of Jesus

## LCMS

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Vicarious Satisfaction/Atonement
- Savior

## Presbyterian

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- A vicarious, substitutionary atonement leads to justification
  - Distorted by limited atonement

# Doctrine of Man

## LCMS

- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Original sin
- Bondage of the Will
- Total depravity

## Presbyterian

- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Original sin
- Bondage of the Will
- Total depravity



# Salvation/Justification

## LCMS

- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Grace Alone
- Faith Alone

## Presbyterian

- TULIP Theology
  - Total depravity
  - Unconditional Predestination
  - Limited Atonement
  - Irresistible Grace
  - Perseverance in Grace
- Eph. 2 – God justifies by grace, freeing us to live to His glory

# Sacraments

## LCMS

- A means of grace
- Commanded by Christ
- With a visible element
  - Baptism
  - Lord's Supper
  - Absolution

## Presbyterian

- Scripture as the Primary Means of Grace, Sacraments as Secondary
- Signs/Seals of the covenant with Christ
  - Baptism
  - Lord's Supper
- Means of Grace vs. Immediate Grace

# Assurance

## LCMS

## Presbyterian

- Points you to the means of grace:
    - Baptism
    - Lord's Supper
    - Absolution
  - Not based on you or your works, but on God and what He has done for you.
- Test your election:
    - Do you believe in Jesus? Do I trust in Christ? Do I believe my sins are forgiven?
  - This is decent...

# Church and Ministry

## LCMS

- Church as the Body of Christ
- Visible and invisible church
- Marks of the Church – Preaching and the sacraments
- One divinely instituted office – the Preaching Office or the Office of the Keys
- Auxiliary offices are rooted in the Office

## Presbyterian

- Church as the Body of Christ
- Visible and invisible church
- Mandated form of church governance – Presbyterian
  - Governed by elders (Session)
    - Ruling (Lay) elders
    - Teaching elders (pastors)
  - Presbytery
  - Synod/General Assembly

# Last Things

## LCMS

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Amillennial

## Presbyterian

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Mostly amillennial

# Current Cultural Topics

## LCMS

- Role of Women in the Church
- Age of the earth
- Abortion
- In Vitro Fertilization
- Cohabitation
- Same-sex Marriage

## Presbyterian

- Role of Women in the Church
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# Miscellaneous

## Presbyterian

- Vastly divided between PCUSA and PCA
- PCA is like the LCMS – Bible is inerrant, ordains men only, abortion and homosexuality are sinful, etc.
- PCUSA is like the ELCA – the Bible is not inerrant, ordination of women and homosexuals, abortion is morally acceptable, same-sex marriage is not a sin, etc.
- NAPARC – The National Association of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches