



Deep in History Conference Study Guide

Conference: 2005 The Continental Reformation

Speaker: Kenneth Howell, PhD - Former Presbyterian pastor and seminary professor

Title: Calvin and the Radicals

Length: 1 hour and 4 minutes

Study Questions:

Calvin wanted to bring Christianity back to its Christian “roots” in the Early Church, back to what he called “the simple Gospel.” What is Howell’s response to Calvin’s method?

Howell enumerates four tones of Cardinal Jacopo Sadoletto’s letter to John Calvin in Geneva. How could the cardinal’s tones be applied to evangelizing those outside the Catholic Church today?

Howell stated, “Nothing should be more distasteful than someone introducing into Christianity something that Christ has not taught.” What do you think about this statement?

What does Cardinal Sadoletto say in his letter to John Calvin about “faith alone”? What does the Latin word *habitus* mean in terms of salvation?

What are the differences between Catholic and Calvinist views on justification and works? What is the difference between justification and sanctification? How does the Catholic Church respond to this?

Howell believes that one of Calvin’s biggest mistakes was that he began to look at the Fathers of the Church selectively. What does it mean to “selectively” look at historical data?

Vocabulary

Renaissance humanism: The term generally applied to the predominant social philosophy and intellectual and literary currents of the period from 1400 to 1650. The return to favor of the pagan classics of antiquity stimulated the philosophy of secularism, the appreciation of worldly pleasures, and above all intensified the assertion of personal independence and individual expression.

Cardinal Jacopo Sadoletto: A well-educated and faithful servant of the papacy in many negotiations under successive popes, especially as a peacemaker, his major aim was to win back the Protestants by peaceful persuasion and by

Why does Howell say that all of Calvinism can be summed up in the spirit of Iconoclasm?

Speaker Biography: *Kenneth J. Howell is Resident Theologian of the Coming Home Network International. Dr. Howell taught in higher education for almost thirty years, most recently for over a decade as a Professor of Religion at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) where he taught classes on the history, theology, and philosophy of Catholicism.*

Dr. Howell was a Presbyterian minister for eighteen years and a theological professor for seven years in a Protestant seminary where he taught Hebrew, Greek, and Latin as well as biblical interpretation and the history of Christianity. During his ministry and teaching, Dr. Howell's own reading on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist started him on a six-year journey that eventually led him to Catholicism. On 1 June 1996, Dr. Howell was confirmed and received into the Catholic Church at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, Indiana. In 2000, he received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award from John Paul II in recognition of his service to the Church (the lay equivalent of the title Monsignor).

Kenneth Howell has been married to Sharon Canfield for thirty-eight years and they have three children and four grandchildren.

Dr. Howell has authored dozens of articles and seven books including new translations of the Early Church Fathers Clement of Rome & the Didache and Ignatius of Antioch & Polycarp of Smyrna (both books available from CHResources at www.chresources.com), Questions College Students Ask about God, Faith, and the Church, The Eucharist: A Supper for Lovers, Meeting Mary Our Mother in Faith, God's Two Books: Copernican Cosmology and Biblical Interpretation in Early Modern Science, and Mary of Nazareth: Sign and Instrument of Christian Unity.

putting Catholic doctrine in a conciliatory form, famously writing to the people of John Calvin's Geneva, urging them to return to the Catholic faith.

Early Church Fathers: A title that gradually came to be applied to Christianity's earliest teachers, who in the period of the Church's infancy and first growth, instructed her members in the teaching of Jesus Christ and that teaching which He very specifically had given to His Apostles. An Early Church Father must be of orthodox doctrine and learning, living a saintly life, and having a certain antiquity (usually, prior to the Council of Chalcedon, 451).

Iconoclasm: "Image-breaking"; the heresy against the veneration of images that, in the 8th and 9th centuries, disturbed the peace of the Eastern Church and later the Frankish kingdom to the west.



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