

Present-day Reformed and Dispensational Movements and their Impact on Assemblies

David Dunlap - Seminar - National Workers and Elders Conf. - Waterbury CT 2009

Jean Gibson - preface to Fairhaven Bible Chapel position paper on Calvinism - *"One of the great theological controversies of Christian history has been over what is called Calvinism. Godly men have held different positions on this question. There has never been general agreement about this issue and probably never will be. However it continues to be a most controversial issue today and has divided churches and believers all over the world. That is a major problem. We do not want to bring division and controversy into our assembly."*

1. History and the Modern Calvinist Movement in the US

Foundation

Augustine, John Calvin, Synod of Dort, Westminster Confession

Key Influential leaders

• C. H. Spurgeon	Puritans	Jonathan Edwards
• Matthew Henry	David Martyn-Lloyd Jones	A. W. Pink

1950s-1960s

Westminster Seminary PA Banner of Truth Trust- Iain Murray- (1957)
Oswald Allis

1970s-1980s

- Home school movement
- Christian Reconstruction movement
- Political Activism and Reformed movement- James Kennedy
- Believers Chapel, TX - S. Lewis Johnson (tapes)

Present Day Leaders

- Louis Giglio and "Passion" Conferences Baylor University, TX
- "Caedmon's Call" • Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman
- Christcentric rap group - associated with John Piper Bethlehem Baptist Church MN

R. C. Sproul/ Ligonier Ministries/Conferences	John Piper	Mark Driscoll
John MacArthur	Alister Begg	Al Mohler
C. J. Mahaney	Mark Dever	
Time magazine - "New Calvinism"	Tim Keller	

Present Day Characteristics /Emphasis

- Effective Bible expositors - Alister Begg, John Piper, John MacArthur
- Non-Charismatic Contemporary Music leaders- Chris Tomlin, Kristine Getty
- Generally Reject modern Church growth methodology
- Strong emphasis on theology, authority of Bible, and resisting secular culture
- Tendency to fall into the trap of Emerging Church ideas - Mark Driscoll
- Generally weak evangelistic emphasis

2. History and the Modern Dispensationalist Movement

Foundation

- Plymouth Brethren Movement - J. N. Darby, William Kelly
- C. I. Scofield
- William Trotter
- C. H. Mackintosh

Key Influential Preachers

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| • L. S. Chafer | F. W. Grant | Charles Ryrie |
| • Harry Ironside | Erich Sauer | William Newell |
| • W. A. Criswell | John Walvoord | A. C. Gaebelein- Our Hope Magazine |

Institutions

Moody Bible Institute	Grace Seminary, Indiana
Dallas Theological Seminary	Talbot Seminary, California

1930s-1940s

Harry Ironside	A. C. Gaebelein	Theodore Epp-Back to the Bible (1939)
William Newell	L. S. Chafer	Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry (1938)

1950s-1960s

Dallas Seminary, Charles Ryrie, John Walvoord, Dwight Pentecost
W. E. Vine, Erich Sauer
Hal Lindsey - "Late Great Planet Earth"

1980s-1990s

Progressive Dispensationalism	Warren Weirsbe
Revised Dispensationalism	Lehman Strauss
"Left Behind" Book series	Charles Swindoll

Present Day Leaders

Renald Shower/ Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry
Mark Hitchcock- author/conference speaker - Edmonds, OK
Tyndale Seminary - Fort Worth, TX - Mal Couch
Kregel Books- Grand Rapids, Gospel Folio Press
Dave Hunt - Berean Call Roger Oakland - Understanding the Times Ministries
Timothy LaHaye/ Tom Ice Pre-Trib Research Center - www.pre-trib.org
Calvary Chapel Movement

Present Day Emphasis

- Fewer number of good Bible Expositors than in the past
- More and more influenced by church growth methodology
- Less emphasis on theology, Biblical authority than in the past
- Many young people are leaving the church
- More and more marked by sensational books, and teaching than in the past
(Over occupation on the rapture, anti-Christ, and Middle East events)

The Impact on Assemblies Today

“Predatory” Calvinists

- The modern Calvinist movement is growing by targeting “dispensationalists.”
- Using tapes, conferences, personal discipleship that is highly critical of dispensationalism.
- One of the most divisive areas today in Assemblies is Reformed theology

Attitude toward the “Tulip”

- In the past many dispensationalists were moderate Calvinists. One thinks of Harry Ironside, Lehman Strauss, William MacDonald, and others.
- Although these men accepted “election to salvation” they also taught human responsibility. However, a mark of these past is that they emphasized human responsibility over election in their teaching and preaching. They followed the pattern of the Scriptures, where human responsibility is more firmly stressed in preaching and teaching than the doctrine election.

F. W. Grant - “God’s love to the world is manifested on the cross. It is not allowable to narrow this down to a love simply for the elect, as has been only too often done...there cannot be a contrary decree that will hinder the salvation of any.”

John Phillips- “Someone once tried to persuade me that God has chosen some people for salvation and chosen other people for damnation. Such an idea is monstrous. God does not arbitrarily and sovereignly damn the greater part of the human race into an existence they did not seek, on terms they did not select ...just in order arbitrarily to send people to hell for not choosing a salvation offered only to the ‘elect.’ ”

Harry Ironside- “There are two things that are absolutely clear in Scripture—one is that God by His foreknowledge has predestinated all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ ‘to be conformed to the image of His Son.’ Predestination is never to heaven nor yet hell; but to special privilege in and with Christ.”

- In the modern Calvinist movement election is stressed more than any other doctrine in the Scriptures. Although, the words “Chosen” and “Elect” are used relatively few times in all of Scripture, it is the first doctrine that is presented when Calvinists targeting dispensationalists.

Once this doctrine is accepted and Dispensationalism is discredited, the Calvinists moved on to other Reformed doctrines.

One Naturism

Infant Baptism

God the author of Sin

Replacement Theology

Passive and Active Righteousness of Christ

Preterism

Covenant Theology

Christ suffered for our sins in the Garden of Gethsemane

Application:

1. Be conversant on Calvinism. Read books examining Calvinism and its modern day consequences.
2. Be aware of young people who are dabbling in, or attending home Bible studies on Calvinism
3. Have a booktable in the assembly with good books and booklets on doctrinal subjects.
4. Have a position paper on Calvinism and other doctrinal subjects. Such as Fairhaven Bible Chapel - <http://www.fairhavenbc.org/position/calvinism.php>