

The Impact of the Protestant Reformation on the Modern World

1. The Reformation made clear the good news of the Gospel that we have no resources within ourselves to create our own salvation, that God's grace is indeed a free gift of God's love. As Paul wrote, we are "dying, yet behold, we live, having nothing, yet possessing everything."
2. It declared that the fullness of the Christian life is for all, not only for monks, nuns, and priests. The term "vocation" became associated with each Christian's calling in the world, not simply a reference to a calling to the monastic or priestly life.
3. Denying any superior merit to celibacy, the reformers made marriage into a reflection of God's natural order rather than a second-class status. This helped to undergird the rise in the status and respect for women.
4. Emphasis on God's transcendence and Calvin's emphasis on the goodness and orderliness of the creation led to the natural world being subject to examination in a modern scientific manner.
5. Anabaptists forced Christians to re-think the relationship of church and state.
6. The principle "the church reformed and always being reformed" brought about the maintenance of a healthy self-critique within the Church.
7. The reformers renewed worship life and placed the whole body of the Church into it.
8. The Reformation promoted the idea of the dignity of each individual, thus providing a background for the modern view of human rights.
9. In Reformed theology, the knowledge of God the creator cannot be isolated from knowledge of the creation. Christians are expected to show a concern, commitment, and respect for the whole world on account of their loyalty, love, and obedience for God its creator. Part of the proper worship of God is the honoring of creation.

This is certainly not a complete list, but these are some significant points to be made.

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