

Michal Servetus

By Michael Eberle

Michael Servetus was born in 1511 and died Oct 27, 1553. His name is pronounced Michael Serve-tus. He was a Spanish physician and theologian. He was born in Villanueva, or Tudela Spain.

Servetus studied law and worked on the problem of the Trinity. He published a book about the Trinity in 1530, saying that people should follow his unorthodox teachings. He defined the Three parts of the Trinity differently, he said that the Word was eternal, a way of Gods self-expression; the Spirit is God's power within men, and the Son is the union of the Word with Jesus, which made both Catholics and Protestants dislike him. He then published a revised version of his book in 1531.

Servetus then moved to a city called Lyon, claiming his name was Villanovanus. He made a translation for Ptolemy's Geographia. In 1534 a meeting was planned for Servetus and Calvin to meet, but Servetus didn't show up. In 1538 he published a book on astrology saying the stars influenced health. He then Published the *Biblia sacra ex Santis Pagnini*, known for the theory of prophecy.

Servetus showed Calvin his ideas of prophecy and astrology in 1546 and Calvin hated him. He said if Servetus ever came to Geneva he wouldn't be allowed to leave alive. Servetus then came back to Geneva and was arrested for heresy. He was burned alive at Champel on Oct 27, 1553. This showed that just because someone has different views, you shouldn't kill them.

