

What Does it Mean to be: *Reformed* Swiss Reformation, part 3 Calvin

Bill Petro

your friendly neighborhood historian

billpetro.com/compass

Three Views of Baptism

Eastern
Orthodox

Roman
Catholic

Protestant

1. Believer's Baptism (*Credobaptism*)

Three Views of Baptism

Eastern
Orthodox

Roman
Catholic

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2. Infant Baptism (*Paedobaptism*)

Three Views of Baptism

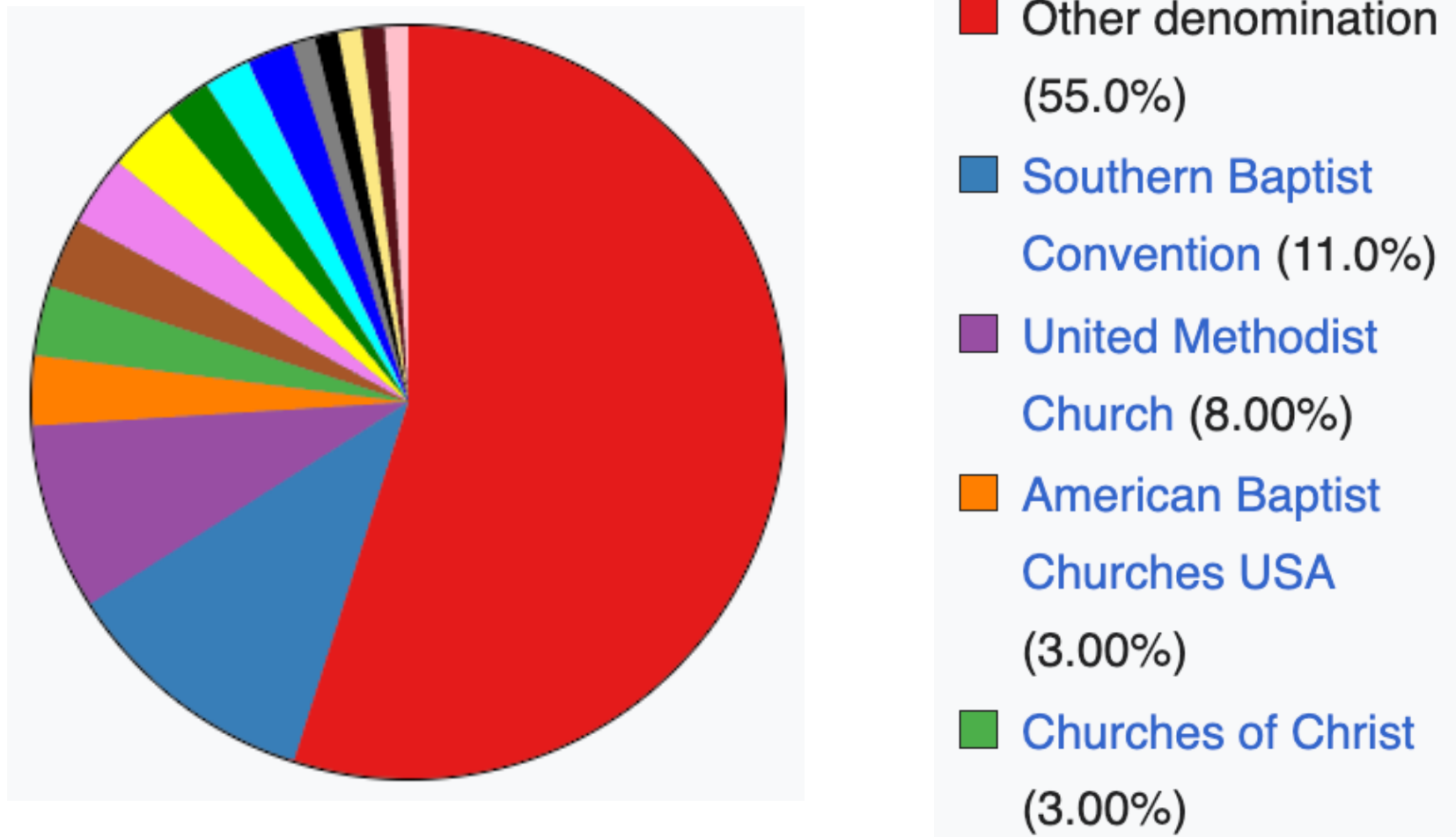
- Anabaptists
- Baptists
- Non-denominational
- Pentecostals

A diagram consisting of a light green rounded rectangle with a red line connecting its left side to a list of four baptismal views. To the right of the rectangle is a vertical teal bar with the word 'Protestant' written vertically in white.

Protestant

3. Believer's-only Baptism,
Credobaptism only

Protestants in the U.S. by Denomination



Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, *you* should be able to

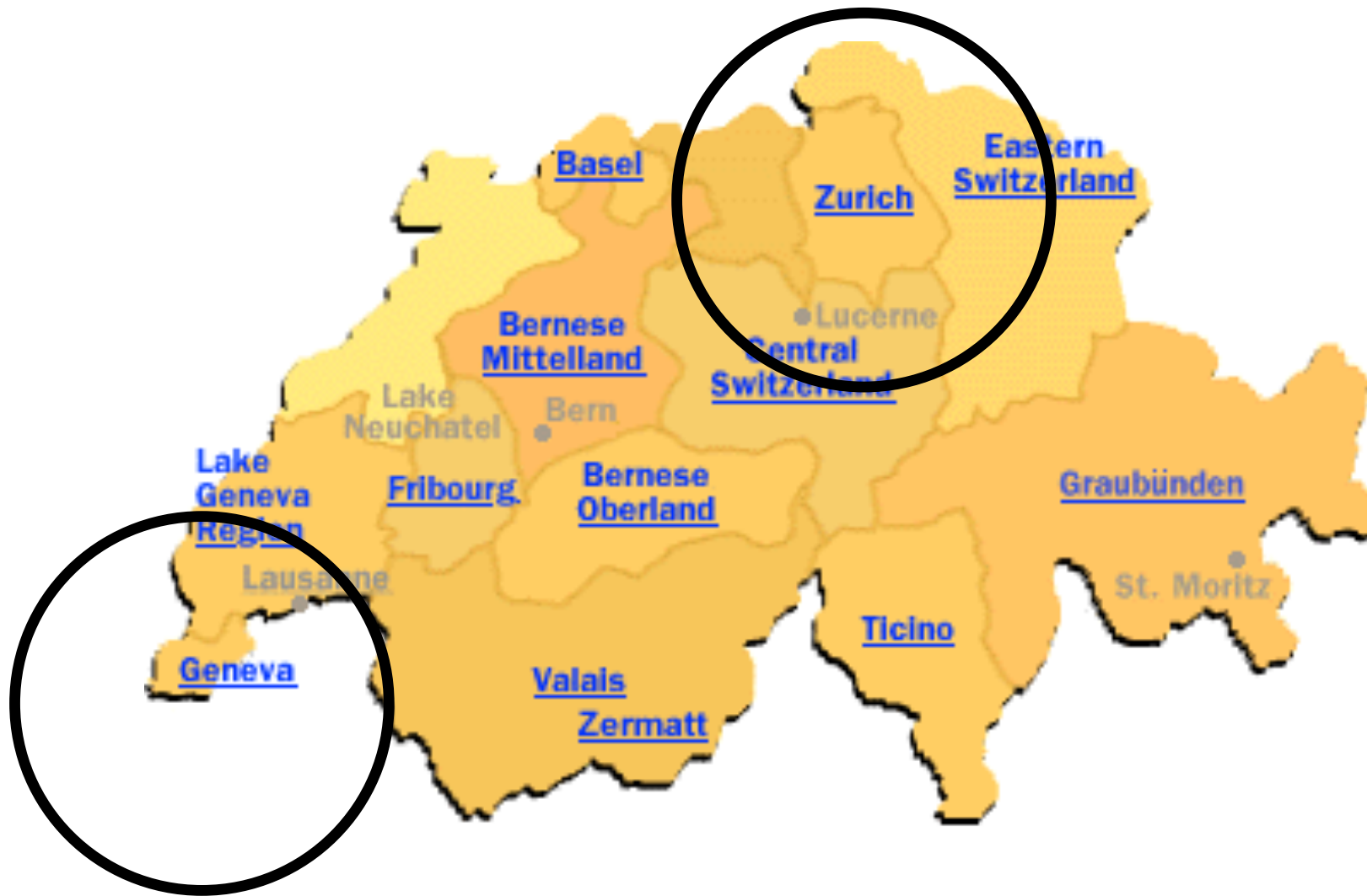
- Describe **John Calvin's** life and distinctives
- Demonstrate the philosophical origins of **Presbyterianism**
- Enumerate Calvin's **contributions**

Find out more

billpetro.com/history-of-john-calvin

billpetro.com/history-of-the-king-james-bible

Swiss Cantons



John Calvin

The Genius of Geneva

- 2nd Generation Reformer
- “Savior of the Reformation”
- Systemizer of the Reformation
- Elicits strong reactions
- Perceptions about Calvin?



Comments about Calvin

“[Calvin] was the most Christian man of his age”

Ernst Renan, French historian

“Genevans should bless the birthday of Calvin”

*Montesquieu,
18th century philosopher and political theorist*

“I have been a witness of him for 16 years...
in this man there was exhibited to all
an example of the life and death of the Christian,
such as it will not be easy to deprecate,
and it will be difficult to imitate”

Theodore Beza, Calvin's successor

“Geneva: The most perfect school of Christ
since the days of the Apostles.”

John Knox, student and Scottish reformer

“Calvin has caused untold millions of souls to be damned...”

Jimmy Swaggart

“[Calvin was]
the "cruel" and "unopposed dictator of Geneva" ”

Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church

“Calvin... raised himself up to the rank of the
Pope of the Protestants”

Voltaire, French Enlightenment Philosopher

[Calvin] “introduced more new absurdities into the Christian religion than can readily be imagined.”

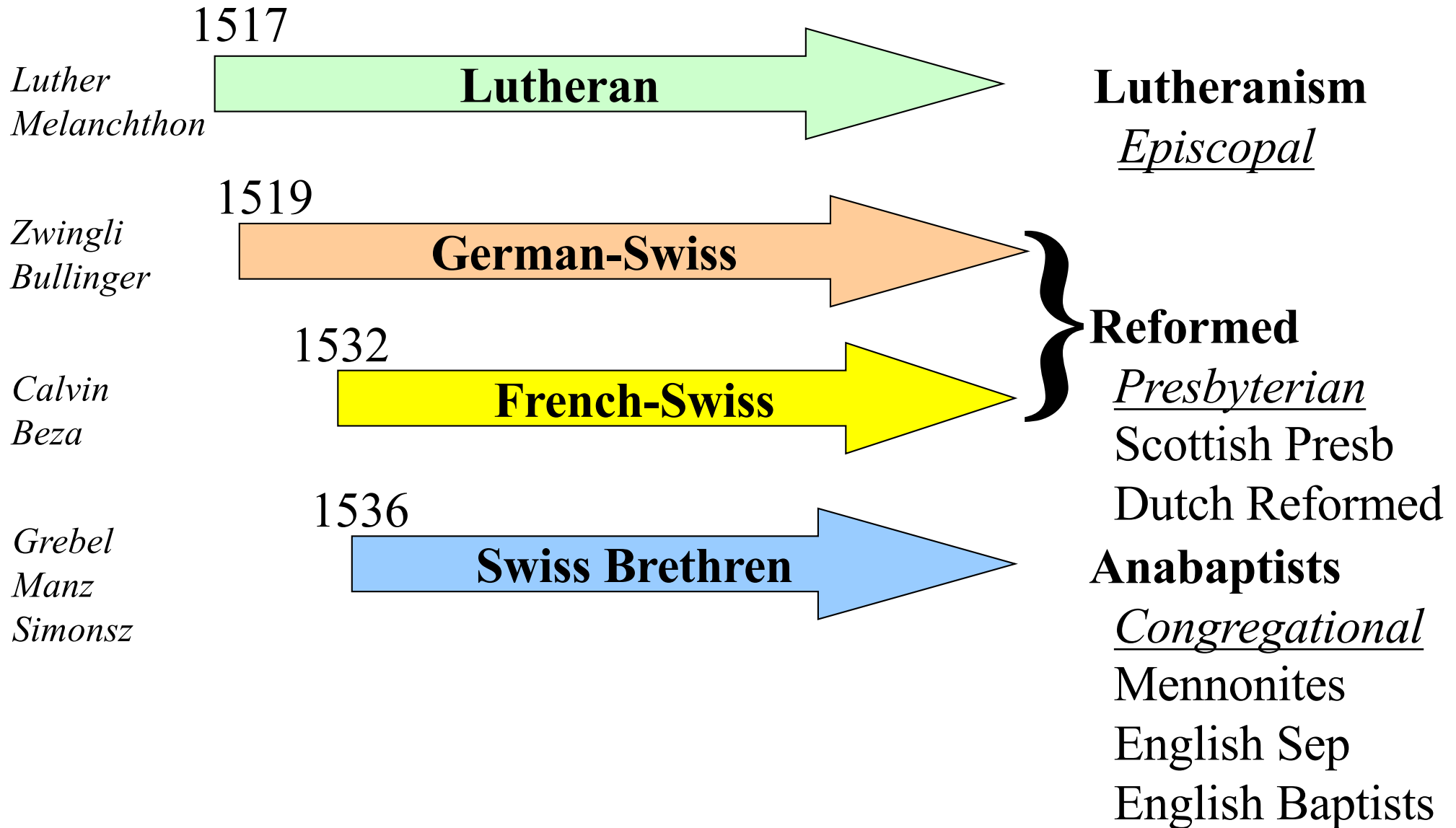
Thomas Jefferson

$$1+1=1$$

- Zurich + Geneva = **Reformed**
- Zwingli + Calvin = **Calvinism**

➔ *Presbyterianism.*

Reformation Traditions



Jehan Cauvin

- Born July 10, 1509
- Noyon, France, in Picardie
- Father: professional
- Education: by church
- Collège Royal - theology
- University of Orléans - law
- University of Bourges - classics.



Calvin's Change

- 1532-33: Conversion
- Nicolas Cop's public sermon.



Calvin: Exile

- Left France for Strasbourg
- Traveled under 3 assumed names
- Dressed as common gardener.



Calvin's Travels



Basel

Strasbourg

Italy

A Providential Meeting

- 1536: Geneva, war detour
- William Farel (1489-1565)
- Challenge.



Discussion Question

Calvin heard in Farel's words the "Voice of God."

- *Do you have someone in your life like that?*

Geneva

- Popular rejection, political hostilities.



The Exile in Exile

- Strasbourg: 1538-40.

Notre Dame de Strasbourg



St. Nicholas Church, Strasbourg



Idelette de Bure

- Widow
- 1540: Woman of character
- Attractive, intelligent, quiet strength.



Back in Geneva

- 1540-64
- Genevan Catechism
- *Ecclesiastical Ordinances*
- Theocracy, not Ecclesiocracy
- “Presbyterian” government...



Church Officers

1. **Pastors** - to preach the Scriptures
2. **Doctors** – to teach and instruct
3. **Elders** – laymen representing the congregation to administer moral order (discipline) to the church
4. **Deacons** - to attend to its charitable responsibilities of the poor and needy

Consistory of Pastors and Elders - to make all aspects of Genevan life conform to God's law.

(Session)

1-Word Summary

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • Catholic Church | Merit |
| • Luther | Justification |
| • Zwingli | Sovereignty |
| • Anabaptists | Credobaptism |
| • Calvin | Omnipotence |