

Monday, September 12, 2022

NEO-CALVINISM

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What follows here is my understanding of this

Subject. It is not Calvinism as such. In

fact, it is seriously criticized by many Calvinists.

Abraham Kuyper said, "One desire has been the ruling

passion of my life. One high motive has acted like a spur upon my mind and soul. And sooner than that I should seek escape from the sacred necessity that this is laid upon me, let the breath of life fail me. It is this: That in spite of all worldly opposition, God's holy ordinances shall be established again in the home, in the school and in the State for the good of the people; to carve as it were into the conscience of the nation the ordinances of the Lord, to which the Bible and Creation bear witness, until the nation pays homage again to God."

I share this vision and desire. However, I would amend it to read, "One desire is the ruling passion of my life. One high motive has acted like a spur upon my mind and soul. God's holy ordinances must be established again in the home, in the school and in the public and civic lives of Believers for the good of the Nation; to carve as it were into the conscience of all Christians the ordinances of the Lord, to which the Bible and Creation bear witness, until the Church thus pays homage again to God in our Nation."

Reference: <https://kuyperian.blogspot.com/2004/10/what-does-it-mean-to-be-kuyperian.html>

ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF NEO-CALVINISM

Creation, Fall and Redemption: What God Formed, Sin Deformed and Grace shall Reform

God's Creation is good. It has been radically corrupted by the Fall. Redemption includes restoration of that Creation in Christ Rejection of Dualism.

Dualism is common in much Christian thinking. The most notable dualism is between Nature and Grace. Neo-Calvinists maintain that Grace restores Nature (and that the Church, as Salt and Light, is meant to transform Culture)

Jesus is Lord over all of Creation. The Theological focus here is on the Sovereignty of God, not His love. He is able to demonstrate

His love and work for the good in our lives because He is sovereign.

Jesus' lordship extends through every area and aspect of life-it is not

restricted to the sphere of church or of personal piety. We believe in Common Grace as well as Special Grace. All of life is to be Redeemed- i.e., Re/Formed

The work of Jesus on the cross was intended to defeat Evil in all areas of life. The resurrection of Jesus is meant to lead to the renewal of all life for both individuals and Society.

Cultural Mandate

Genesis 1:26-28 is the mandate from God to Humanity to care for and cultivate

all of Creation, including Culture and Civilization, to God's glory. However, note the Goal is not to return to the Garden. Our eye is on the future, the Second

Coming of Christ with a New Heaven and Earth. (Rev 21)

The Role of Biblical Law. (Psalm 19, 119)

Law is more than the Decalogue. It is the Pentateuch. It begins with the Creation Ordinances (Norms) established by God as His will for the living of life in all Spheres and continues through the Gospel and New Covenant. Sphere sovereignty.

The Spheres, derived from the Law, are God-given Institutions (Marriage, Family, Faith Community (Church), Civic Community and Commerce and, finally, Civil Government. Each of these Institutions has boundaries that mark off its sphere of responsibility and influence. All are responsible to God. In relation to

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each other, they are autonomous (sovereign), but cooperative. To be clear, the Role of Government is to safeguard and enable, but not to intrude on or interfere with the Spheres. The latter principle determines public policy. It is to maintain Subsidiarity.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 11:13