



Let's Read *The Institutes of the Christian Religion, Class 1*

Introduction
and
Prefatory Address to King Francis I of France



Introductory Comments

- Your teacher is not an expert.
- Please remember: this is not Scripture.
 - It is history.
 - It is educational as well as devotional.
 - It is Calvin and not necessarily Calvinism.
- It is worth reading.
 - No other work has made such a significant contribution to Western culture.
 - It is not dated but it is culturally framed.
 - A favorite word: "calumny", "calumnies", "calumniators" –
 - a false and malicious statement designed to injure a reputation
 - defamation, slander
 - Resources: www.ephesians515.com

The Institutes of the Christian Religion

1st edition – 1536, Calvin was 26 yrs old.

1. Law
2. Faith
3. Prayer
4. Sacraments
5. False Sacraments
6. Christian Freedom,
Ecclesiastical Power, Civil Govt.

CHRISTIA

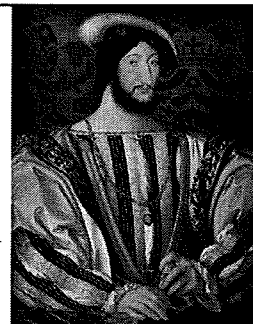
NAB RELIGIONIS INSTI-
tuto, totam fere pietas summa, & quic
quid est in doctrina salons cognitu ne-
cessarium, complectens: omnibus pie-
tatis studiosis lectu dignissi-
mum opus, ac re-
cens edis-
rum.

PRAEFATIO AD CHRI-
stianissimum REGEM FRANCIAE, qua
hic ei liber pro confessione fidei
offeritur.
IOANNE CALVINO
Nouiodunensi auctore.

B A S I L E A E,
M. D. XXXVI.

Prefatory Address to King Francis I of France

1. Circumstances in which the book was first written
2. Plea for the persecuted Evangelicals
3. Charges against Antagonists refuted
 - 1) "new" and "of recent birth"
 - 2) "doubtful and uncertain"
 - 3) No confirmation miracles
4. Misleading claim: church fathers vs. Reformation teaching
5. The appeal to "custom" against truth
6. Errors about the nature of the church
7. Tumults alleged to result from Reformation preaching
8. Let the king beware



SHIFTS AND ADDITIONS OF MATERIAL
IN THE FIVE CHIEF LATIN EDITIONS
OF THE *INSTITUTIO*

(lines indicate new material; box marks where/ how it shows)

