

They set work on this task for which the Council thanked them. But the Council felt, like every organization in Europe at that time, that the secular ruler had the right to control religion, and Luther had never interfered with it. Luther was interested in doctrine. People said, Well who is going to control the churches? Well, he said Let the Bishops keep on controlling them, only let them support the Gospel. But the Bishops of that time were not interested in supporting the Gospel! So in the end, in all the Lutheran countries, the secular rulers controlled, and the secular rulers declared what the doctrine was to be and who were to be the officials in the church.

Calvin felt this was wrong. He said the men who were studying the Word and who were standing before God should decide things about the church. So Calvin and Farrel got the leaders of the city to agree that there would be a consistory made up of six ministers and twelve laymen appointed by the Governor. These 18 would control the church. Now the people of Geneva got , many of them, very much opposed to Calvin and Luther's and Farrel's attempts to change the city into a fine Christian city from the general atmosphere that was there. So one day when the people of Berne who were defending the city said, We'd like you to make your ceremonies exactly like ours. Calvin and Farrel said, We have no objection to the Bernese ceremonies, but they said, The ceremonies should not be decided by the secular government; the consistory should decide them. Then the officials said to them, Well if you won't do what we say on ceremonies, you must not preach any more! But the next Sunday they both preached anyway!

The Consistory gave them 48 hours to clear up ~~XXXXXX~~ their affairs and get out of the city. They left. The people of Berne said, We have no idea of causing losing a fine preacher, but the leaders of Geneva were satisfied; they did not want them their any longer. Calvin and Farrel hung around for a time in other cities waiting while requests were made but they refused to let them go back and Calvin was greatly relieved.

Calvin said, I'd rather die a thousands deaths than go back there to Geneva. He went up to Strasburgh and there he became the pastor of a group of French refugees. There with a group of people who had fled for the sake of their faith, he found it possible to organize a church just as he thought it ought to be. He found it possible to carry on the work and he enjoyed it tremendously. He was very very ? ? ~~XXXX~~ Then after three years the people of Geneva decided they wanted him back. So they sent for Calvin to come back; they did not ask for Farrel. Calvin refused. But Farrel wrote him and urged him to go back, and they tried the best they could, and Calvin went back. The first Sunday there he preached on the very next text after the one he had just finished. He went right on as if nothing had happened. He went on preaching every day, preaching on Sunday two or three times, preaching every day. giving his discussions of the Scripture, going through the Scripture. He made plans for a university there. He insisted on the independence of the church, but he urged the directors of the city to follow Christian principles in their organization of the city. Opposition came to him in the next 14 yrs. to where his life was very miserable.