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Luther would have indignantly repudiated, for Luther considered himself as a follower of Christ alone, and did not desire anyone to take his own name. Yet this usage removed the Lutherans from those called Reformed, and left the term which had originally applied to all who had left the Roman Catholic Church, to apply specifically to the followers of Calvin. Today we consider the term, Reformed doctrine, as denoting belief in the sovereignty of God and His absolute control over everything that happens. Other aspects are really simply part of this great theme. The particular doctrines that are today called the Reformed doctrines were actually held by Luther every bit as strongly as by Calvin, and at some points even more strongly.

Calvin detested this disjunction between Lutheran and Reformed. He felt that all who turned away from the errors of the Roman Church were Reformed. In recent years some who hold the great Reformed teachings that Calvin presented make a disjunction between American Fundamentalism and Reformed. It is an utterly false disjunction.

We at Biblical believe and teach the Reformed doctrines because we find these taught in the Bible. We find that the Bible teaches that God is absolutely sovereign, that He has elected those who are to be saved, and that He will never withdraw His hand from those on whom He has put it but will enable them to remain true to Him.

We believe, however, that these great doctrines are given for our encouragement and for our help in our Christian life, not for us to make a line from which to attack other Christians and thus to deny the great command of Christ that all who follow Him should love one another.

The term American Fundamentalist is, as pointed out, an utterly false disjunction. We are, of course, Americans. Our background is American, our culture is American. We have certain viewpoints that are particularly American. Yet the culture and attitudes of those of us who have studied in other lands have naturally been affected by our experiences there. This is true, for instance, of such great defenders of the faith as Robert Dick Wilson and J. Gresham Machen. I myself studied for several years in Germany and this affected my outlook and the breadth of my Christian sympathy. Since I believe that America was founded on Christian principles and that it was truly Christian men who were responsible for the bases upon which this country was established, I feel that there is much in American and Americanism that is worth preserving. As I find our country departing more and more from the principles on which it was founded, turning against the God who has so blessed it, and bringing itself into a position that makes me wonder how much longer God will continue to bless it, I feel that I must stand energetically for those great principles.

The term "fundamentalism" places stress on the great fundamentals of the Scripture, such as the inerrancy of God's Word, the deity of Christ, and the fact that salvation is possible only because God sent His Son to save all who would believe on His Name. These teachings must be held by everyone who is really a Christian, and God calls on all Christians to love one another.