

Luther, alas, took a stand on a certain view of the Lord's Supper, a view ^{of} which I have never met anyone other than a Lutheran who could understand what Luther met by it - but Luther took a strong stand on this attitude regarding the Lord's Supper and opposed grimly, in Switzerland, the precursor of Calvin, he opposed him with an almost unchristian attitude. And Luther's closest friend, Melancthon, met Calvin at a meeting and became a close friend of Calvin's, and ~~then~~ Calvin and Melancthon corresponded during the remainder of their lives. And one time Calvin wrote a letter to Melancthon and he said, "It is unfortunate that Luther is taking the attitude toward us Reformed people that he is." He said, "It is very unfortunate," and he said, "I think perhaps ~~some~~ Zwingli and some of our people have expressed themselves in a rather unfortunate way." Now he said, "Here is an expression I have worked out that maybe would satisfy Luther. Will you show it to him and see if we cannot get together." And Melancthon wrote back and he said, "Luther was in such a terrible temper today and was so speaking out against anyone who disagreed with him (and I think you would have sympathy with Luther if you realized all he went through - the agonizing labors and the terrible dangers he passed through; and in his later days he had many physical ailments to ~~compete~~ ^{instead compete} with) I think we can appreciate with Luther, understand and sympathize with him. But Melancthon said, "Luther was in ^{an} such ~~such~~ attitude today that I just thought it would bring the storm of his wrath upon me if I showed him your letter, so I didn't even show it to him." And Calvin showed the letter to one of his friends in Geneva and the man said, "Look here, John Calvin, Luther did a great work in starting the Reformation but," ~~he~~ he said, "now he is getting off on these tangents and he is making himself out as a new pope in Wittenberg. Why don't you speak out against him and point out that he has ~~passed~~ passed his usefulness." Calvin turned to the man and said, "I don't care if Luther calls me a devil. I don't care what terrible things he says about me. I will always insist about him that he is one of the greatest blessings God ever gave His church, and one of the greatest ornaments in Christian history is Martin Luther." Now ^{that} spirit of Calvin is the spirit that should be, and I think generally has been, typical of true Presbyterianism. Presbyterianism is mainline Christianity. It stands