

Ulrich Zwingli's Life, Work, Influence

Catherine McMillan on November 23, 2019 in Zurich



**The movie – more than 250'000 viewers! True story:
a man's fight against the corrupt establishment, danger,
suspense, a complex character, a mission, true love...**



The Swiss Reformation was different:

- More **democratic**: decided by public debate and vote in the councils, not by princes of a territory.
- It focused on reforming society, **social justice** in this life: first state-run social welfare system, first municipal hospital, first public schools, first civil registry office
- It was an **educational** and enlightening movement, influenced by Christian humanist thought.
- **Ethics** played a major role, derived from Bible. Old Testament and law seen as part of the Gospel.
- **Empowerment**

Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484-1531)

«Huldrych» = rich in grace



Born in Wildhaus SG Son of a farmer, trader and mayor.



**Values: realism, common sense, faith,
diplomacy, responsibility, education**



Zwingli's Childhood and Youth

- **5-10 years: schooled by Uncle Bartholomäus in Weesen / Lake Walensee**
- **10-12 years: Latin school in Basel**
- **12-14 years: Dominican Monastery Berne**

Zwingli Door of the Grossmünster



- **1498 – The monks want to keep the 14 year old in the monastery because of his good singing voice.**
- **Zwingli played more than 10 musical instruments well and composed.**

Humanistic studies in Vienna, Paris, Basel

Erasmus of Rotterdam



Priest in Glarus – 1506-1516



For sale: Swiss foot soldiers: The Pope, the Habsburgs and the King of France bargained for them.



- **Zwingli accompanied the young men of his parish to battle.**
- **He saw that the mercenary system was a root cause of poverty.**

The Battle of Marignano 1515

More that 10'000 Swiss soldiers died.



Priest for pilgrims in Einsiedeln 1516-1518

- **Studied the New Testament in Greek**
- **Had a problem with celibacy**
- **Preached for the pilgrims**
- **Preached against the mercenary system**
- **Preached against selling letters of indulgence**

Zwingli's Purpose

«We must clean and restore the noble face of Christ that has been painted over and deformed and smeared by human inventions and traditions. Then we will start to love Christ again. Then we will feel how easy his joke is and how light his burden.»

Called to be priest of the people in Zurich



Installed in the Grossmünster on January 1, 1519



Zurich 1519



The Plague «I am your vessel.»



Anna Reinhart – the widow who nursed him



Against instrumentalizing fear to make money. No purgatory. No bribes. Christ alone.

und des Aberglaubens



Christoph Froschauer, the Printer



Sausage in Lent at Chrisoph Froschauer's House on March 9, 1522

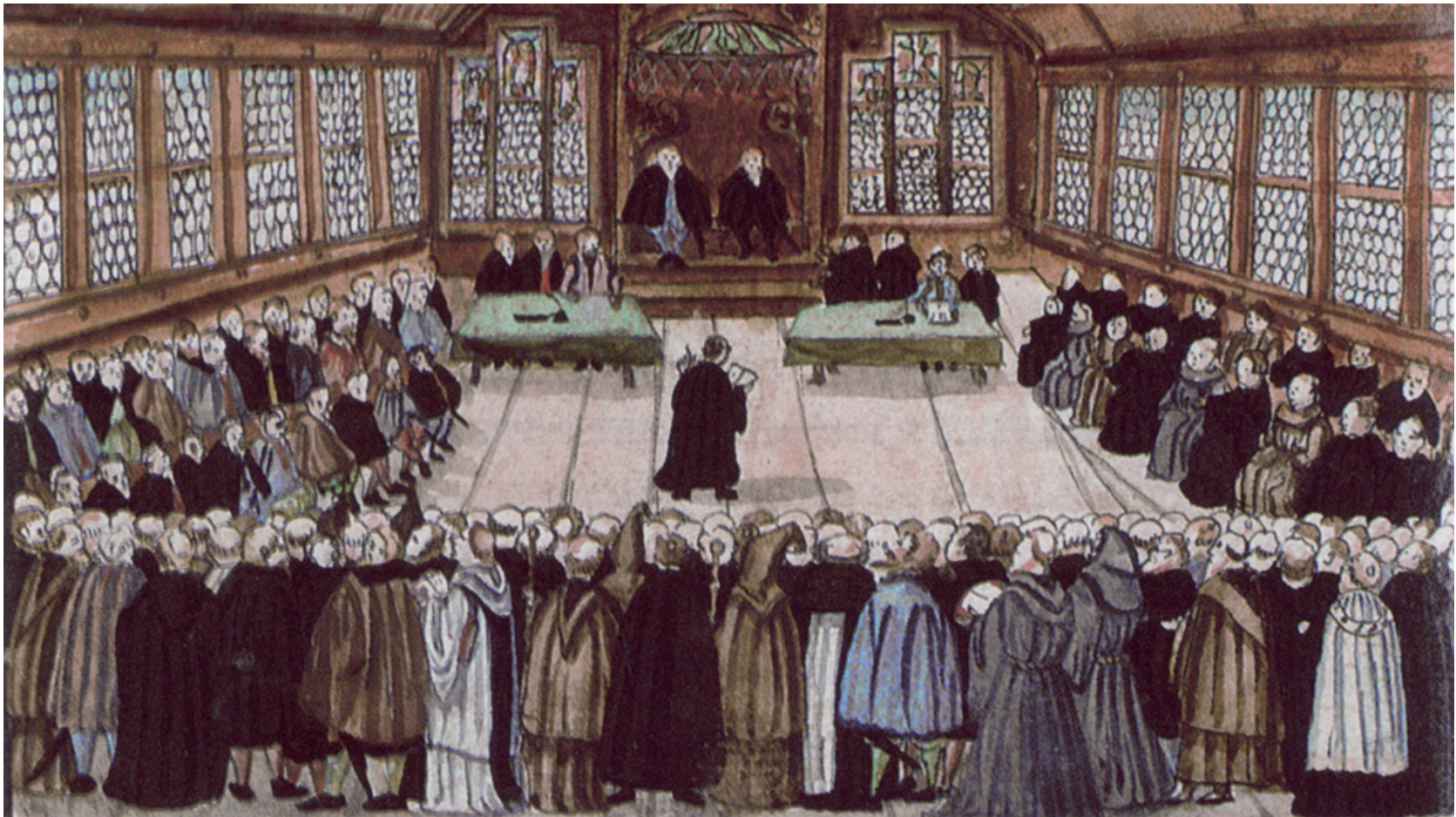


Sermon on the freedom to eat what you want published in April 1522

«Willst Du gerne fasten, so tue es. Willst Du gar kein Fleisch essen, so iss es nicht. Lass mir aber den Christenmenschen dabei frei.»

**„If you want to fast, do it.
If you don't want to eat meat, then don't eat it.
But let the Christian be free.“**

Disputations on January and October 1523 in the Zurich Town Hall in the Zurich City Hall



Married Anna Reinhart „secretly“ in 1522, publically in the church in 1524, shortly before the birth of Regula. They lived in this house and had four children together, as well as Anna's three. Against hypocrisy and for the protection of women and children.



Katharina von Zimmern, the last Abbess: gave the monastery to the city, secured the success of the Reformation.



Monument for Katharina von Zimmern in the cloister garden of the Fraumünster Cathedral



«The poor are the true images of God»

Criticism of idolatry. The Word, social justice. e



«Mushafen» in front of the Predigerkirche First social welfare system 1525



Prophezey – Seed of the University of the University of Zurich



Public daily translation of the Bible by a team of scholars, following exegetical and hermeneutical principles



The Froschauer Bible 1531

Zürcher Bible before the complete Luther Bible



Conflict with the Anabaptists / Drowning of Felix Manz 1527, a decision of the court



Official Apology of City Council and Council of Reformed Church Canton Zurich in 2004



Dispute with Luther over the Lord's Supper Colloquy in Marburg 1529



Leuenberg Agreement 1973

Leuenberger Konkordie



Kappeler Milchsuppe 1529



Trust in the Effectiveness of God's Word / Freedom of Speech

«Truly, God's Word is so certain that it will run its course like the Rhine River. You can damn it for a time, but you can't stop it from flowing.»

Jakob Kaiser burned at the stake in Schwyz 1531



Die Catastrophe of Kappel 1531



Henry Bullinger, the Adviser for Europe

Correspondence – 20'000 letters

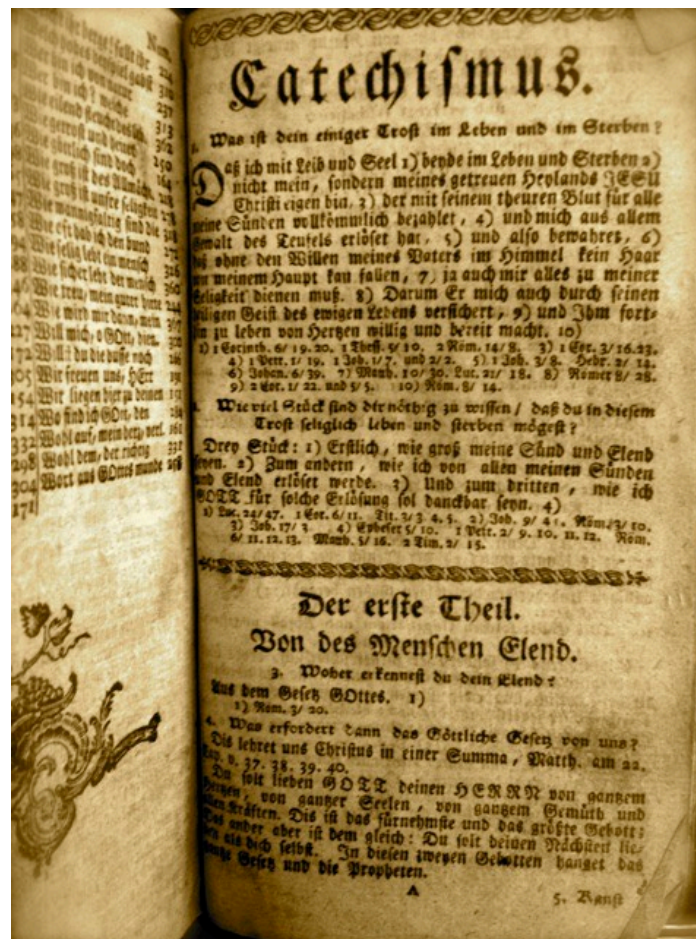


John Calvin in Geneva

His influencers Farel and Bucer were Zwinglians



Zacharias Ursinus, main author of the Heidelberg Catechism of 1563 was a Zwinglian.



Influence

- **Equality**
- **Democracy**
- **Checks and Balances**
- **Public education**
- **Social welfare**
- **Critical exegesis**
- **Confessional diversity**
- **Prophetic voice**

Typically Reformed?

- **The Prophetic Office – Article 39 of Zwingli's 67 Articles**
- **Karl Barth and The Theological Declaration of Barmen, 1934**



Herzlichen Dank für die Einladung!

Auf eine gemeinsame Zukunft!

