

The Revolutionary Theological Impact of Lutheran Reformation and its Effective Approach to the Church

Rehan Derrick Fernando*

rehansirinimal@gmail.com

Abstract

Roots of the Lutheran reformation remind us that the medieval theology has taken certain measures that in way disturb the basic realities of the Scriptures. Avarice in Rome, benefices and taxations, the great schism and moral collapse of those days implied a radical change in the church's prevailing system. It was simply a dark age of the church that blocked and created many sub-cultures with regard to the concept of redemption.

Luther's reformation, basically, could be discussed in two major areas, which are most essential elements in the reformation as such.

1. An elementary cry for conversion
2. A call for a genuine renewal (reformation)

The hierarchy and authority of the church of the medieval age was running away from the real biblical and scriptural tradition. Its theology and all other implications did not allow man to be free from his social, political, religious and economic bondages. The church became more of an obstacle to the human growth of that time. All responsible authorities according that did not fit enough to the man's liberation created a theology.

Luther's revolutionary arrival therefore on one-way or another is a rebellious and threatening voice. It was truly a voice in the wilderness crying for a reformation. Luther was not merely the creator and head of the new movement, he was the movement. Luther's reformation reminds us one single matter, which is quite important. The abuses of the church of that era were not the real cause as such, but only the occasion of the reformation and the reformation first brought a theological renewal and then extended up to certain internal changes of the church. The universal church therefore had to face those challenges constantly.

Reformation was not ever an effort of establishing another CHURCH but a renewal to the PREVAILING CHURCH itself.

Key words: Conversion, Renewal, Rebellious, Threatening, Collective-conscience.

* B. Ph. (Rome), B.Th. (Dublin), M.A. (Cromwell-USA). The researcher is a visiting lecturer attached to the Department of Christian Culture, University of Kelaniya. He has written 8 books including three theological books in Sinhala and English. He is now in the process of writing the proposal for the doctoral research on Inter-Religious Dialogue.