

Foundation of Belief Systems

Our worldview flows out of our view of God and His Word

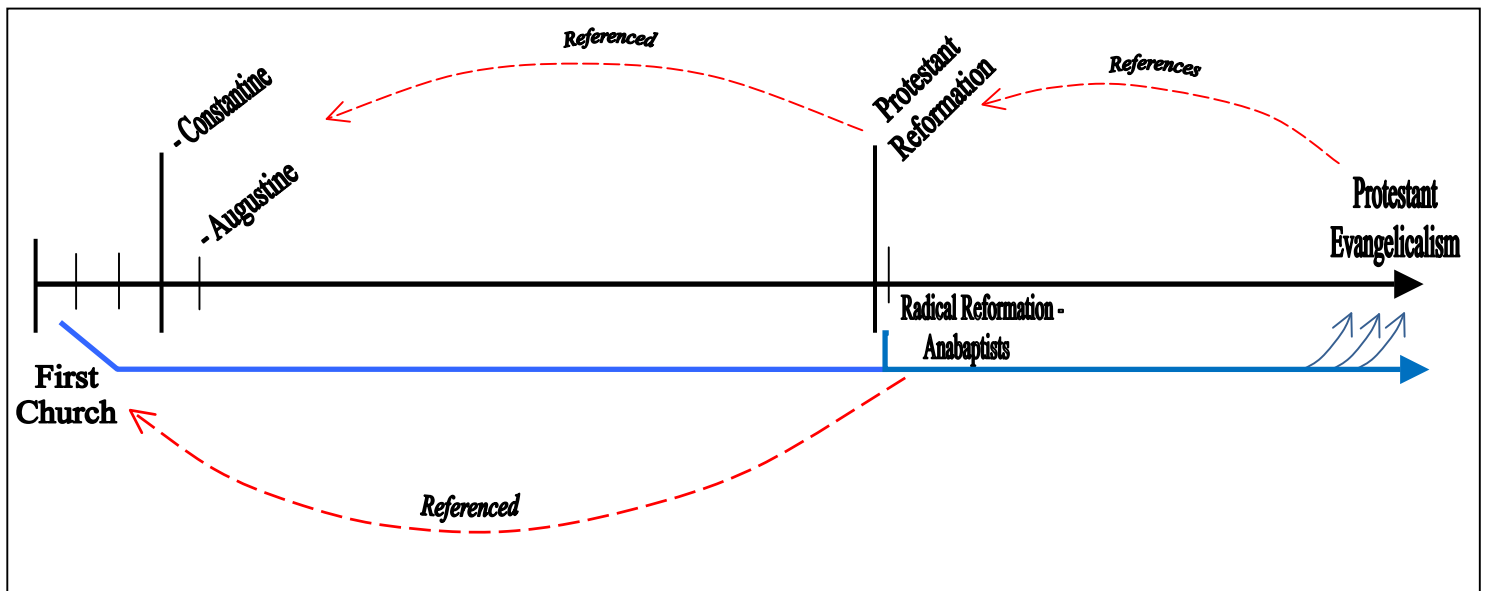
Our 'Point of Reference' influences our view of God and His Word

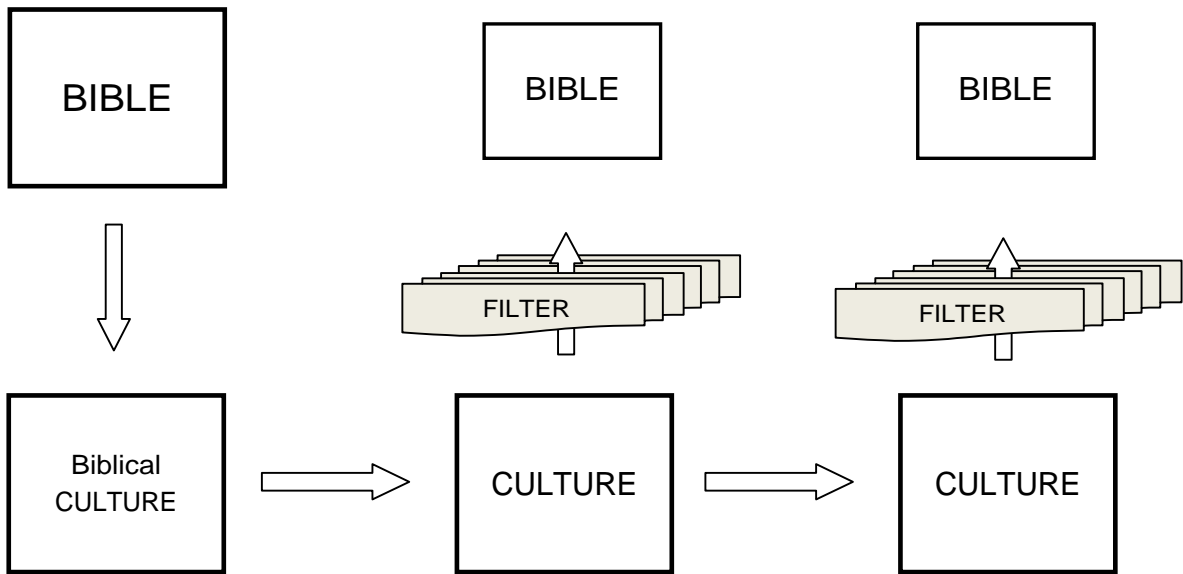
POINTS OF REFERENCE

- Protestant Christianity – the Reformers
 - producing 'Reformation Theology'
- Anabaptist – Scripture
 - 'as it is written' & practiced by the First Church
- Hammered out by the Radical Reformers on the anvil of intense persecution of the Reformation period

The worldview and scripture interpretation of the 'First Church' was founded and grounded in the presence and teaching of The Living God who became flesh and dwelt among us.

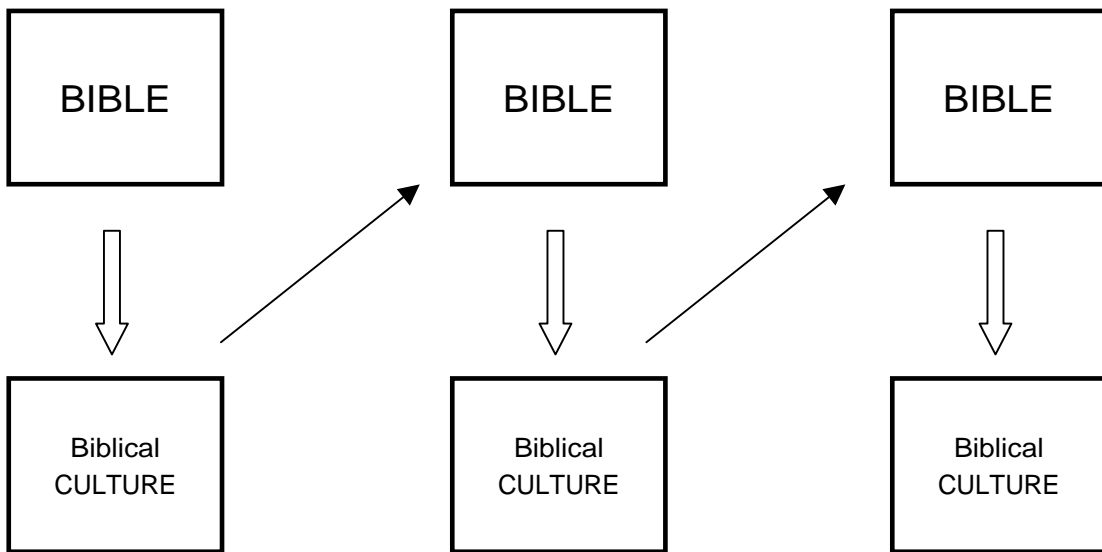
The worldview and scripture interpretation of the Reformers stems from the Constantinian synthesis and Augustinian theology.





Anabaptist culture is Bible based but is not the gospel. The Culture becomes a system and is communicated as the gospel. The Bible is then read through that cultural filter.

Teaching the culture as the gospel is dishonest. Our children recognize this and in turn reject the culture. In the process of seeking answers and truth they read and hear the plentiful and scholarly excellent teaching of Protestant Evangelicalism. The Bible is then read through the filter of Reformation Theology.



We need to teach the Bible base of our culture to our children. They must be pointed back to the Bible and taught the truth of the scriptures with practical life application so that a biblical culture results in every generation

Anabaptists perceptions of Bible and the Order of the Church

Frank Reed

Bible as
understood
by the early
Anabaptists



Produced



Beliefs and
practices of
the early
Anabaptists

became

Old Order

Church defines and codifies into the “order of the Church”. Bible used as text to defend practices.

Result: Order of Church becomes definitive

Progressives

became

Church becomes hierarchy of structure and is custodian of scripture - therefore has power to make decisions irrespective of scripture.

Result: Bible is subservient to Church

It can be seen that both ‘old order’ groups and ‘progressive’ groups have developed ideologies that do not accurately represent the beliefs and practices of the early Anabaptists that made the Bible the standard of life and not subordinate to a religious system.

Both types of systems produce a culture. Both types of systems value loyalty above integrity – where loyalty is actually perceived as integrity.

The danger is that we can produce systems/ culture and then defend the system/ culture as if they were the scriptures while not accurately representing the early Anabaptists as they attempted to live as the early Church.