



CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We trust that you have continued to find our *Care Conversations* a welcome part of your week. The feedback has been encouraging. We want to keep supporting you in your important role in this ministry of Christian education.

In this next series of *Care Conversations*, Stephen looks at some important historical moments through the eyes of Rodney Stark, and in particular his *How the West Won: The Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity* (ISI Books, 2015). We trust that this gives you a fresh lens about some common themes in our world of education.

Please remember to contact us at The Excellence Centre if we can assist you with any of the topics raised in these Conversations.

Sincerely,

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 3:

NOTIONS OF THE WEST



REFLECTION BY
STEPHEN J FYSON *PHD*
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT



Number 5:

What Does 'Reforming' Really Mean?



I have noticed a book or two around at the moment along the lines of 'continuing the Reformation'. I have heard people speak of 'returning to Reformation core beliefs' and of 'completing the Reformation'. It seems that establishing the impact the Reformation had can be difficult.

Stanley Grenz (in his book on *Generous Orthodoxy*) even points to the differences between Luther and Calvin that are still misunderstood today – for example, that Luther's main focus was the Gospel (through Grace), and not the primacy of Scripture per se. That latter focus was more for Calvin.

Jesus taught us that we will know people by the fruit of their lives (Matthew 7:15-23) – and while Luther and Calvin had much to help us in their thinking

and living, social reform was apparently not their main impact. Rodney Stark expressed it this way in his summary:

The Reformations did not result in religious freedom but merely replaced repressive Catholic monopoly churches with equally repressive Protestant churches (it became a serious criminal offense to celebrate the Mass in most of Protestant Europe). [p.3]

May God help us to pray for our political leaders, and in doing so, see the deeper heart issues at play in the world in which we live with our students.

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre



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- Provide excellent products, services and research products
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