

My doctoral thesis focuses on the church-state relationship in Calvin's thought. His model of the church-state relationship shows both powers to be sovereign, but at the same time in cooperation. The aim of my thesis is to verify the similarity between the progressive and ecclesiastical power of the state in terms of its institutionalization. Man is under twofold government (secular and spiritual) the attempt to separate these two governments is not only possible, but even desirable. They are not mutually incompatible, for God reigns in both. The concept of the Church moved from the invisible realm into the visible one with a solid organizational structure. The true Church is recognizable by its key features: the pure preaching of the Word of God and the proper administration of the sacraments according to Christ's will. Church and state administration have proved necessary for human survival. Calvin tries to reduce the danger of absolute power in both governments. Ecclesiastical power, which was originally connected only with the power of the keys, developed into three branches. Similarly, secular government was divided into three parts. An important topic for Calvin is his conception of the law. Christ liberated man from the tyranny of the law so that he could freely follow it. Man has civic duties, however, if these should conflict with God's law, then one must give priority to God.