

***Christianizing the World: Reformed Calling or Ecclesiastical Suicide?* David J. Engelsma. Jenison, MI: Reformed Free Publishing Association, 2016. Hardcover. 192 pages. \$19.95. Reviewed by Julian Kennedy, a member of the Covenant Protestant Reformed Church in Northern Ireland.**

The publication of this book, which is based on a speech given by Professor Engelsma in a public lecture in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2014, ostensibly coincides with the imminent appearance of the English translation of Abraham Kuyper's three-volume magnum opus on common grace which has been funded by various Reformed and Presbyterian churches and the Acton Institute—which is essentially Roman Catholic.

Engelsma's points are incisive, convincing, and devastating of all Kuyper's errors. "Christianizing the world" is NOT a Reformed calling and it denies total depravity, breaches the antithesis, destroys the oneness of the true Reformed worldview, causes world conformity, leads to an erroneous belief in postmillennialism, and ultimately the apostasy of churches and the rise of antichrist (the latter point actually made by Kuyper himself!) On a more local level it has led to the falling away of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) and Calvin Theological Seminary. Many, many other Reformed churches are erring through espousing this doctrinal system.

Engelsma shows that Kuyper's interpretation of the Noahic covenant is wrong and that what he taught was anti-confessional and not Reformed.

Among the charges made about the Protestant Reformed Churches—the only denomination to oppose Kuyper's view and its adoption by the CRC—was that they were "Anabaptist." Engelsma again shows that this is spurious and false stating, "The Reformed Christian is permitted, indeed required, to live this godly life in physical contact and even earthly cooperation with the ungodly, for example, at work, in the neighbourhood, and in the life of the nation."

The second half of the book consists of Engelsma's answers to questions from the floor and others posted later. It also delves into several ramifications of Kuyper's views.

It is a much-needed book that ought to be read by every member of Reformed and Presbyterian churches whose seminaries and leaders are almost all falling away from the Biblical truth of the five points of Calvinism and in particular sovereign, irresistible, particular grace.