

Association for Calvinist Philosophy

THIRD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

"Anthropology in Christian Perspective"

AUGUST 11 - 15, 1986

Centrum voor Reformatorische Wijsbegeerte
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the Netherlands.

Nineteen eighty-six will be a very special year for the Vereniging voor Calvinistische Wijsbegeerte (Association for Calvinist Philosophy), for it will then be fifty years ago that it was found. The Association is organizing as an important part of the celebration on this semi-centenary its third international symposium, which will be held from August 11 to August 15, 1986.

The subject to which this symposium will be devoted is: "Anthropology in Christian Perspective." The choice of this subject is motivated by the renewed interest in present-day philosophy in anthropological issues. Throughout the course of modern philosophy - and, as a matter of fact, of modern culture in general - the human person is increasingly viewed as a being in a state of alienation. This basic experience of estrangement is due, on the one hand, to the strong emphasis on human freedom and liberation in modern thought, whereby man's relation to the world around him and to his fellowmen becomes problematical. On the other hand, this experience is the result of an exclusively scientific approach to reality in which no account is given to human responsibility. The tension between the emphasis on human freedom and the exclusively scientific approach to man and the world, or the tension between what Herman Dooyeweerd has called "the ideal of personality" and "the ideal of science," has, we believe, brought about in present-day thought the need for a fundamental reorientation on the age-old question: What is man?

In the Reformational philosophy of our Association there has always been a central place accorded to the concrete person in all his various relationships: to God, to fellowman, and to the world in which he lives. However, a lot of work remains to be done to develop this perspective and to make it fruitful for presentday philosophical discussions. The purpose of this conference will be to get together as many Christian scholars as possible in order to discuss and reflect on this subject, so that we as Christians may stimulate each other to make a meaningful contribution to a current philosophical concern.

During this conference major papers will be presented by Dr. Henk. G. Geertsema, professor of philosophy at the University of Groningen, Dr. C. Stephen Evans, professor of philosophy at St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minnesota), Dr. André Troost, emeritus professor of philosophy at the Free University of Amsterdam, Dr. David Lyon, Senior Lecturer in Social Analysis at Bradford and Ilkley College (United Kingdom), and Dr. Jacob Klapwijk, professor of philosophy at the Free University of Amsterdam.

It has become customary at the symposia organized by the Association to hold a number of workshops. During this symposium we are also reserving a part of the time for such workshops dealing with the various aspects of the above-named subject. Anyone who is able to attend the symposium and who is in a position to make a meaningful contribution to the subject in question, is invited to submit a brief resumé (one typewritten page) to us before December 1, 1985, so that on the basis of these resúmes we may organize the workshops. The papers presented during these workshops should not exceed the limits of forty minutes. We are seriously considering publishing the papers presented during the symposium. These papers should therefore be worked out in such a form that they can be submitted for publication right after the presentation.