



# Calvin

An eight weight typeface  
from Michael Parson

Calvin is the result of a desire to create a fresher version of the often used Grotesque style type designs. With our main activities based in Switzerland, this font style has dominated our landscape and rather than trying to deconstruct such great designs, we embarked on our own form, borrowing from both the swiss style but equally trying to mix in some more humanist values into the overall design.

Initially created as an ultralight design, we felt the skeleton had enough character to merit an expansion of the weights and so we therefore embarked on creating a large range of weight variants that add huge value to the usability of the design.

Despite its sterile background, we feel that the resulting letterforms of the Calvin font have a true style and variation that place them between the swiss and english forms of sans serifs, perfect for my own background as an english designer born and raised in Switzerland!

The last joke was trying to define a name, the desire was to have a name that hinted at the birthplace of the font, yet Switzerland presents a series of challenges. Nearly every form of name has already been used! Helvetica, swiss even Geneva has its own font! We hit on the name Calvin as a subtle reference to John Calvin, former of the Reformed protestant church in Geneva. Not only did the name meet our ideas of short and sweet, but we felt it suited the ideas of Calvin, free of excess, working on the quorum of elements.

# Calvin

Reformed  
& restyled  
typography

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CALVIN HAIRLINE

CALVIN ULTRALIGHT

CALVIN LIGHT

Aa Aa Aa

CALVIN BOOK

CALVIN REGULAR

CALVIN MEDIUM

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CALVIN BOLD

CALVIN HEAVY

CALVIN BLACK

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CALVIN BLACK ITALIC

CALVIN HEAVY ITALIC

CALVIN BOLD ITALIC

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CALVIN MEDIUM ITALIC

CALVIN ITALIC

CALVIN BOOK ITALIC

Aa Aa Aa

CALVIN LIGHT ITALIC

CALVIN ULTRALIGHT ITALIC

CALVIN HAIRLINE ITALIC

Calvin hairline  
& italic

CALVIN HAIRLINE - 92pt

Geneva  
1541

CALVIN HAIRLINE - 26pt

In supporting Calvin's proposals for reforms, the council of Geneva passed the Ordonnances ecclésiastiques (*Ecclesiastical Ordinances*)

CALVIN HAIRLINE - 11pt

in supporting Calvin's proposals for reforms, the council of Geneva passed the *Ordonnances ecclésiastiques* (*Ecclesiastical Ordinances*) on 20 November 1541. The ordinances defined four orders of ministerial function: pastors to preach and to administer the sacraments; doctors to instruct believers in the faith; elders to provide discipline; and deacons to care for the poor and needy.[29] They also called for the creation of the Consistoire (Consistory), an ecclesiastical court composed of the lay elders and the ministers. The city government retained the power to summon persons before the court and the Consistory could judge only ecclesiastical matters having no civil jurisdiction. Originally, the court had the power to mete out sentences, with excommunication as its most severe penalty. However, the government contested this power and on 19 March 1543 the council decided that all sentencing would be carried out by the

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Source: Wikipedia

La Forme des  
Prières & Chants  
Ecclésiastiques

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In 1542, Calvin adapted a service book used in Strasbourg, publishing *La Forme des Prières et Chants Ecclésiastiques* (The Form of Prayers and Church Hymns). Calvin recognised the power of music and he intended that it be used to support scripture readings. The original Strasbourg psalter

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# Calvin ultralight & italic

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Source: Wikipedia

CALVIN ULTRALIGHT - 92pt

# Geneva 1541

CALVIN ULTRALIGHT - 26pt

In supporting Calvin's proposals for reforms, the council of Geneva passed the Ordonnances ecclésiastiques (*Ecclesiastical Ordinances*)

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CALVIN HAIRLINE

*The ordinances defined four orders*

In supporting Calvin's proposals for reforms, the council of Geneva

CALVIN ULTRALIGHT

*The ordinances defined four orders*

In supporting Calvin's proposals for reforms, the council of Geneva

CALVIN LIGHT

*The ordinances defined four orders*

In supporting Calvin's proposals for reforms, the council of Geneva

CALVIN BOOK

*The ordinances defined four orders*

In supporting Calvin's proposals for reforms, the council of Geneva

CALVIN REGULAR

*The ordinances defined four orders*

In supporting Calvin's proposals for reforms, the council of Geneva

CALVIN MEDIUM

*The ordinances defined four orders*

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CALVIN BOLD

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CALVIN HEAVY

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In supporting Calvin's proposals for reforms, the council of Geneva

CALVIN BLACK

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Calvin light  
& italic

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# De Clementia



# Hairline to black

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**Calvin preached at St. Pierre Cathedral, the main church in Geneva.**

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SWITZERLAND  
CAN WE STILL MAKE  
NEW TYPOGRAPHY





# Jehan Cauvin

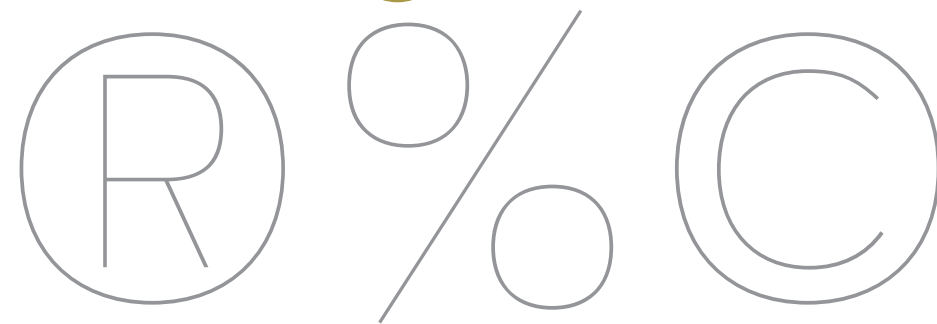
IN SUPPORTING CALVIN'S PROPOSALS FOR REFORMS, THE COUNCIL OF GENEVA PASSED THE ORDONNANCES ECCLÉSIASTIQUES (ECCLESIASTICAL ORDINANCES) ON 20 NOVEMBER 1541. In 1542, Calvin adapted a service book used in Strasbourg, publishing *La Forme des Prières et Chants Ecclésiastiques* (*The Form of Prayers and Church Hymns*). Calvin recognised the power of the government and intended that it be used to support scripture readings. The original Strasbourg psalter contained twelve psalms by Clément Marot. Calvin added several more hymns of his own composition in 1542.

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# Accusations évangéliques



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Quand il n'y a pas de vision  
le peuple est sans frein

# Calvin bold & italic

# Geneva 1541

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Source: Wikipedia

CALVIN BOLD - 92pt

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**Calvin heavy  
& italic**

CALVIN HEAVY - ISO 1 **A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

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Source: Wikipedia

CALVIN HEAVY - 92pt

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# Geneva

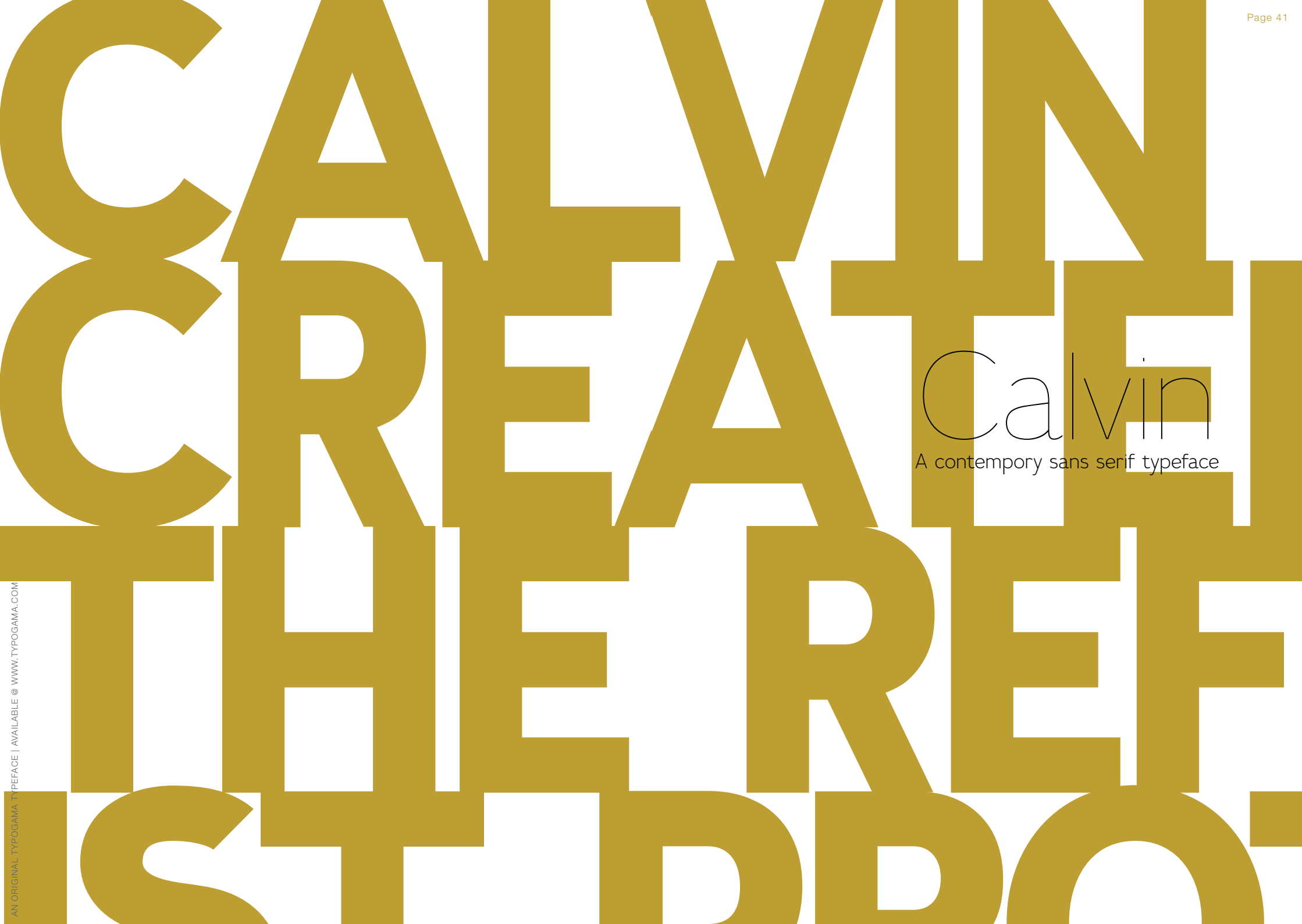
# 1541

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Calvin

A contemporary sans serif typeface



CALVIN HAIRLINE - 92pt

CALVIN HAIRLINE - ISO 1

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Source: Wikipedia

CALVIN HAIRLINE - 26pt

CALVIN HAIRLINE - 11pt

In supporting Calvin's proposals for reforms, the council of Geneva passed the *Ordonnances ecclésiastiques* (*Ecclesiastical Ordinances*) on 20 November 1541. The ordinances defined four orders of ministerial function: pastors to preach and to administer the sacraments; doctors to instruct believers in the faith; elders to provide discipline; and deacons to care for the poor and needy.[29] They also called for the creation of the *Consistoire* (*Consistory*), an ecclesiastical court composed of the lay elders and the ministers. The city government retained the power to summon persons before the court and the Consistory could judge only ecclesiastical matters having no civil jurisdiction. Originally, the court had the power to mete out sentences, with excommunication as its most severe penalty. However, the government

Suisse, Genève

**CONSISTOIRE**

université de Bourges

1509 **1564**

Article IV

***L'Homme en sa nature***

L'HOMME EST MAUVAIS

& sa seule chance de rédemption

L A F O I



**Calvin Typeface**

by Michael Parson

18 weights

Text / Display

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