

The Protestant Reformation

Protestant

- One who protests; member of church whose faith and practices are founded on principles of the Reformation, especially in acceptance of Bible as source of revelation, justification by faith alone, and universal priesthood of all believers.
- Member of Western church adhering to theology of Luther, Calvin, or Zwingli.

Reformation

- 16th century religious movement marked ultimately by rejection **or** modification of some Roman Catholic doctrine and practice and establishment of Protestant churches.
- Martin Luther did not intend to leave Roman Catholic Church.

I. Primary Causes Of Reformation

1. Corruption Of Roman Catholic Church

- Immorality. Mt.7:16; Tit.1:16
- Inquisition. Created to crush heretics and get money... Lk.14:23
- Intrigues [power struggles]. Gr. Schism
 1. Father/Son; infallibility; Mary; cup
 2. Two 'popes': 1305-1378
- Indulgencies: treasury of merits; works of supererogation. Lk.17:7-10

1. Corruption Of Roman Catholic Church

2. Renaissance

14th – 17th Century

- “Rebirth”
- Gradually left dark ages to enter period of great learning

1. Corruption Of Roman Catholic Church

2. Renaissance

3. **Invention of printing press**

- Scribes copy text all day
- Johann Gutenberg (1455)
- 180 copies of Gutenberg Bible
- Increased knowledge of Scripture

I. Primary Causes Of Reformation

II. Preliminary Celebrities
For Reformation

John Wycliffe (1330-1384) [1]

Ablest theologian on Oxford's faculty

- 1384: bubonic plague hits England
- Local priest rejects request for help
- Church interested only in two things:
your money; your confession
 - Catholic canons against translations
 - 'Morning Star of Reformation'

John Wycliffe (1330-1384) [2]

'Morning Star of Reformation' attacks:

- Sale of indulgences
- Papal interference in political life
- Excessive veneration of saints
- Low moral / intellectual status of priests
- Transubstantiation
- Appeal to tradition
- Church's wealth (Ac.19)

John Wycliffe (1330-1384) [3]

Greatest work:

- Translates Bible into English 70 years before Gutenberg
- One Bible could take year to copy
- Lollards went out two by two
- People paid as much as five marks for manuscript of Bible . . .

John Huss (1369-1415)

- Bohemian priest, influenced by Wycliffe
- True head of church is not pope, but Christ
- Bible is ultimate standard of authority
- Council of Constance (1414) promised him 'safe conduct'

William Tyndale

First translation of NT in English after invention of printing press, from Greek, 1526

- Condemned to death for heresy
- Oct.6, 1536, strangled and burned
- Last words: 'Lord, open King of England's eyes'

Erasmus (1466-1536)

- 1453: Turks invade Byzantium.
- Greek scholars flee w. MSS to Europe.
- Five years later, European university offers Greek.
- Enables Erasmus to edit / publish first Greek NT, March 1, 1516.
- Enables Luther / Tyndale to translate NT from original into target language.
- Erasmus tries to reform R. Cath.

I. Primary Causes Of Reformation

II. Preliminary Celebrities For Reformation

III. Prominent Characters
In Reformation

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

- Roman Catholic priest
- 1517: Ninety-five Theses, Wittenberg
 - Latin propositions to debate
 - Opposes indulgences [release from temporal penalties of sin by payment of money]
 - To build “St. Peter’s” in Rome

Huldreich Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Swiss theologian
- Leader of reformation movements in Switzerland

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- French theologian, reformer
- Geneva: 1536
- Institutes form of Church government that becomes Presbyterian Church – Theocracy
- Promotes Augustine's views: T-U-L-I-P

John Knox (1513-1572)

- Disciple of Calvin
- Established Calvinistic Protestantism as national religion of Scotland (Presbyterianism)

Henry VIII (1491-1547)

- 1534, he had Parliament pass act appointing king and successors as supreme head of Church of England: an independent Anglican Church.
- 1538: excommunicated by pope for divorcing first wife (Catherine) and marrying Anne Boleyn, et al.

I. Primary Causes Of Reformation

II. Preliminary Celebrities For Reformation

III. Prominent Characters In Reformation

IV. Prominent Conclusions
In Reformation

1. Sola Scriptura

- Bible is sole authority for all matters of faith and practice.
- YET: formed churches, organizations, and doctrines unknown to NT.

1. Sola Scriptura

2. Sola Gratia

- Salvation by grace alone.
- Not saved by any work we do; supernatural work of H.S.
- Gift from God to chosen ones who bring nothing, not even the will to be saved, to God.
- Gn.6, Noah; Tit.2:11f., grace...all;
2 Pt.3:9, not any perish.

1. Sola Scriptura
2. Sola Gratia
3. Sola Fide

- Salvation by faith alone.
- Not by works of Law.
- Righteousness of Christ imputed to believers to satisfy God's standard.
- Contradicts grace alone?
 - NO: God gives the faith.
- John 6:27...; 8:24; Gal.5:6; Hb.11; Ja.2

1. Sola Scriptura
2. Sola Gratia
3. Sola Fide

4. Solus Christus

- Salvation in Christ alone.
- No one else can save [= all Jesus; not of us].
- Ac.2, we must respond.

1. Sola Scriptura
2. Sola Gratia
3. Sola Fide
4. Solus Christus

5. Soli Deo Gloria

- SDG – for glory of God alone
- Classical Reformed position: God prepares good ground to receive seed; God changes heart of elect to believe
 - Lk.8:12 (15)
 - Ro.10:17; Ac.2