

The History Behind The Protestant Reformation

All of These Issues led to Change!



1. Weakening of the Catholic Church: The Breaking of Vows

- ⇒ By the 1300s, many people felt that the church had become too corrupt.
- ⇒ Many priests, monks, and nuns made vows (solemn promises) not to marry or have children, but many of them broke these vows.
- ⇒ Many church leaders behaved more like royalty than like humble servants of God.



2. Weakening of the Church: Buying Indulgences



- ⇒ An indulgence was a release from punishment for sins, in return for good works.
- ⇒ The church would sell indulgences to people to raise money, but only rich people were able to afford them.
- ⇒ People who received indulgences did not have to perform good deeds to make up for their sins and would spend less time in purgatory .



3. Weakening of the Church: Conflict with Rulers

- ⇒ The church became wealthy and powerful
- ⇒ King Philip IV tried to tax the French clergy. When the pope threatened to excommunicate him, he had soldiers kidnap the pope. Although they released him, the pope died soon afterward.



4. Weakening of the Church: Two (or more!) Popes



- ⇒ Pope Clement V moved headquarters from Rome to the French city of Avignon, and the next 6 popes lived there.



- ⇒ Pope Gregory XI moved the papacy back to Rome in 1377. When he died, the new pope refused to move back to France .

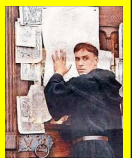


- ⇒ French cardinals elected a rival pope. There were now two popes, and a third one was elected by a church council. Each claimed to be the true head of the church. This was the case for about 30 years.

5. Early Calls for Reform or Change

- ⇒ John Wycliffe (~1330-1384): A British scholar who questioned the Pope's authority and attacked indulgences & immoral behavior by the clergy.
- ⇒ Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536): A humanist priest from Holland who called for reform in the church. In 1509 he wrote *The Praise of Folly* which called for a return to simple Christian goodness.

Martin Luther: A True Reformer!



- ⇒ A German priest who disagreed with many Catholic beliefs, and was especially outraged by the selling of indulgences.
- ⇒ He felt that the church was selling false salvation to uneducated people.
- ⇒ In response, Luther posted a list of 95 theses (arguments) against indulgences and church abuses on the church door in the town of Wittenberg. He also sent the list to church leaders .
- ⇒ Luther argued that the Bible – not the pope or church leaders – was the ultimate source of religious authority.
- ⇒ Luther was excommunicated in 1521, but then later started his own church called the Lutheran Church. Many people followed him because they were also unhappy with church practices.
- ⇒ He also translated the Bible into German .
- ⇒ This is how the Protestant Reformation began.

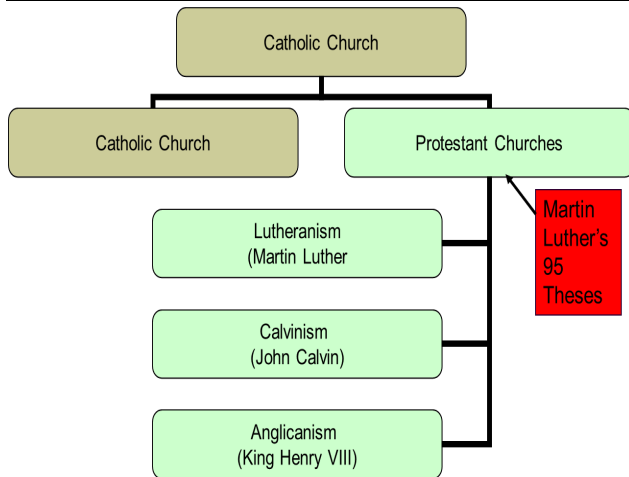


After this, Christianity splits into many branches!

Reformers & The Counter Reformation

Martin Luther (1483-1546) : Started the Protestant Reformation Movement (1517)	John Calvin (1509-1564)	King Henry VIII (1491-1547)	William Tyndale (~1491-1536)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luther was a German priest who disagreed with many Catholic beliefs, and was especially outraged by the selling of indulgences. He felt that the church was selling false salvation to uneducated people. <u>Luther posted a list of 95 theses (arguments) against indulgences and church abuses</u> on the church door in the town of Wittenberg. He also sent the list to church leaders . He translated the bible into the common language, arguing that the bible, not church leaders is the source of religious authority. He started his own church called the Lutheran Church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A French humanist who started a Protestant branch in Geneva, Switzerland He believed that salvation came only from God's grace, and that the "saved" were chosen by God and lived according to strict standards ("predestination"). <u>There was nothing people could do to change their destiny.</u> Success in business was a sign of God's grace. He influenced many other reformers. The PURITANS were actually Calvinists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1534, King Henry VIII formed the Church of England (Anglican Church) with himself as its head. He did this because the Catholic church would not allow him to divorce his wife. <div data-bbox="894 621 1195 915" data-label="Image"> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An English priest, scholar, and writer. <u>Tyndale translated the Bible into English.</u> His translation was famed for its beautiful language and later became known as the King James version of the Bible. Tyndale was burned at the stake for translating the Bible. <div data-bbox="1227 678 1544 915" data-label="Image"> </div>

The Reformation : A Flow Chart of the Split



The Counter-Reformation The Catholic Church Makes Changes!

The Counter Reformation is how the Catholic Church responded to the Reformation. It was a Catholic reform movement where church leaders worked to:

- Correct abuses .
- Clarify and defend Catholic teachings by creating new religious orders like the Jesuits.
- Condemn Protestant errors & banned books written by Protestants.
- Win back areas of Europe that had been lost, by using missionaries to spread Catholicism through the world.
- They met at the Council of Trent & determined that faith, good works, and the sacraments were all necessary for salvation. The Latin Bible was still the only official Bible .

Religious Wars!

- ⇒ Many wars were fought in Europe during the 16th and 17th centuries.
- ⇒ Civil wars in France between Catholics and Protestants left over a million people dead.
- ⇒ The Thirty Years War (1618-1648) in Germany was the last major war of the Reformation.
- ⇒ Treaty of Westphalia-The result was that European rulers could decide for themselves whether their countries would be Catholic or Protestant, and much of northern Europe became Protestant.



See How Religion
in Europe Changed!