

The Reformation: 500 Years

Outline:

Session One - Intro to Reformation and Martin Luther

Session Two - John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, the Radical Reformation

Session Three - The Counter Reformation, Is the Reformation over?

What is the Protestant Reformation?

- **Reformation** - The movement in the 16th century to reform the Catholic Church, to correct its errors and abuses.
- **Protestantism** - the churches that arose out of the Reformation that were protesting the Roman Catholic church's abuses, beliefs, and practices. The two key issues:
 - The authority of Scripture (Sola Scriptura) - The Formal Principle (authoritative source of theology)
 - Justification by faith alone (Sola Fide) - The Material Principle (Central Doctrine)

The Background to the Reformation

Life of Martin Luther Leading up to the Reformation

1. Young Luther (1483-1546)

2. Augustinian Friar

- a. Prince Frederick the Wise of Saxony.
- b. Johannes von Staupitz (1460-1524)
- c. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

3. Luther In Rome (1511)

4. The 95 Thesis and their background

- a. What are indulgences?
 - i. **Penance - (CCC 1459-1460)** *"Absolution takes away sin, but it does not remedy all the disorders sin has caused. Raised up from sin, the sinner must still recover his full spiritual health by doing something more to make amends for the sin; he must "make satisfaction for" or "expiate" his sins. This satisfaction is also called "penance." ... "It can consist of prayer, an offering, works of mercy, service of neighbor, voluntary self-denial, sacrifices, and above all the patient acceptance of the cross we must bear. Such penances help configure us to Christ, who alone expiated our sins once for all.*
 - ii. **Indulgences- (CCC 1471)** *"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints." "An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin." Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead. (A cleansing for temporary sin given by the church from the treasury of merit, to the one who meets certain conditions).*

5. Pope Leo X, Albert of Brandenburg, and St. Peter's Basilica

- a. Johann Tetzel (1470-1519)

A Thematic study of Luther's Contributions

6. Luther as Theologian

- a. Luther on Justification
 - i. Romans 1:17 - *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith.."*
 - ii. Romans 4:25 - *And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.*
 - iii. (CCC 1446) *"Christ instituted the sacrament of Penance for all sinful members of his Church: above all for those who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin, and have thus lost their baptismal grace and wounded ecclesial communion. It is to them that the sacrament of Penance offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification. The Fathers of the Church present this sacrament as "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace."*
- b. Luther vs Erasmus (The Bondage of the Will)
 - i. Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)
 - ii. September 1524: *the Freedom of the Will*,
 - iii. Luther responds, December 1525 with his *The Bondage of the Will*.
 - 1. *In this, moreover, I give you great praise, and proclaim it—you alone in pre-eminent distinction from all others, have entered upon the thing itself; that is, the grand turning point of the cause; and, have not wearied me with those irrelevant points about popery, purgatory, indulgences, and other like baubles, rather than causes, with which all have hitherto tried to hunt me down,—though in vain! You, and you alone saw, what was the grand hinge upon which the whole (reformation)turned, and therefore you attacked the vital part atonce; for which, from my heart, I thank you. (Section 168).*

- c. Luther vs Zwingli (the Lord's Supper)

7. Luther the Scholar and pastor

- a. Translation of the Bible into German -
- b. Luther's Catechism
- c. Hymn writer
- d. Response to the Plague

8. Luther's failings

- a. Harsh Tone.
- b. The Peasant Revolt -
 - i. *An Admonition to Peace*
 - ii. *Against the robbing and murderous hordes of peasants.*
 - 1. *"For rebellion is not just simple murder; it is like a great fire, which attacks and devastated a whole land. Thus rebellion brings with it a land filled with murder and bloodshed; it makes widows and orphans and turns everything upside down, like the worst disaster. Therefore, let everyone who can, smite, slay, and stab, secretly or openly, remembering that nothing can be more poisonous, hurtful, or devilish than a rebel. It is just as when one must kill a mad dog; if you do not strike him, he will strike you, and a whole land with you."*
- c. Against the Jews
- d. Conclusion

9. Luther and Family

- a. Katherine Von Bora (1499-1552)
- b. Died on February 18th 1546 at age 62.

10. Luther's legacy