CHAPTER 13
The Reformation: Protestant & Catholic

A. THE PROTESTANT REVOLT BEGINS

1. At the beginning of the 16th century the Church suffered from many abuses.
   a) The popes were far more interested in patronizing the arts and participating in the wars between the Italian city-states than in caring for the Church.
   b) Bishops often used simony and nepotism, did not live in the diocese they were supposed to govern (absenteeism)
   c) Priests were ignorant of the teachings of the Church.
   d) Superstitious practices had crept into how the laity worshiped.

B. MARTIN LUTHER’S EARLY LIFE

1. Luther was born in the German state of Saxony in 1483.
2. His father wished him to become a lawyer but Luther decided instead to become an Augustinian monk.
3. Luther developed the problem of scrupulosity and became convinced that no matter how hard he tried he could not become righteous with God.
4. Through misreading Sts. Paul and Augustine, he became convinced that the only way a Christian could gain salvation was through faith and faith alone in Jesus Christ - that good works were useless.
5. And since the Church’s granting of indulgences was based on good works, Luther became outraged with the selling of indulgences.
6. This outrage prompted the writing of the Ninety-five Theses.
7. Luther’s reputation as a preacher and teacher grew.

**C. The 95 Theses**

1. In Luther’s day the selling of indulgences was being abused to the point where Catholics thought that they could escape Purgatory no matter what sin they had committed.
2. Albrecht, Archbishop of Magdeburg, decided to purchase another diocese, he made a deal with the Vatican to permit the sale of indulgences in his jurisdiction provided he would receive half the proceeds.

**THE 95 THESSES**

3. Hired to preach the new indulgence was the Dominican friar, Johan Tetzel whose preaching was sub-Christian.
4. Luther decided to challenge all comers to a debate about indulgences.
5. None of Luther’s points were directly heretical but they indirectly undermined the teaching authority of the Church.

**D. From Debate to Dissension**

1. At first, no one took Luther up on his offer to debate.
2. However, someone printed copies of the Theses which then found their way to most of the prominent clerics and scholars in Germany.
3. Albrecht was quite upset by the Theses and sent a copy to Rome.

**FROM DEBATE TO DISSENSION**

4. At first, Pope Leo X didn’t take Luther seriously.
5. Finally Luther was invited to a debate and when questioned he:
   a) dismissed papal authority
   b) the authority of ecumenical councils
   c) the authority of the Letter of James in the New Testament.
6. He also claimed that humans were saved by faith alone and that free will was limited.
7. Pope Leo gave him two months to recant and when Luther refused was declared a heretic.
8. Now it was up to the civil authorities to punish Luther but when Holy Roman emperor Charles V tried to arrest him, Frederick of Saxony “kidnapped” him and hid him in the castle of Wartburg for 1 year.  
a) While Luther was hiding out he translated the New Testament into German.

**E. LUTHER’S THEOLOGY**

1. Luther’s idea of justification by faith alone is the cornerstone of all Protestant theology.  
a) Scripture alone is the sole authority on faith and doctrine - not the pope or teachings of the councils.  
b) Faith alone is all that is needed, good works are useless.

**LUTHER’S THEOLOGY**

2. Grace alone - every good action is a direct result of God’s saving grace - humanity can do nothing good on its own.

**LUTHER’S THEOLOGY**

3. Christ alone - Jesus is the sole content of Scripture, the mediator of grace and the subject of faith.

**LUTHER’S THEOLOGY**

a) There is no need for priests, the heads of congregations should marry.

**LUTHER’S THEOLOGY**

b) Only 2 sacraments - Baptism and the Eucharist
Chapter 13

**LUTHER’S THEOLOGY**

- c) Consubstantiation vs. Transubstantiation
- d) Mass to be said in the vernacular

Part II

**The Peasant Rebellion and the Splintering of Protestantism**

A. THE GERMAN PRINCES

1. Frederick of Saxony and the northern German princes saw in Luther’s new movement a way to free themselves from the pope and the Catholic emperor and to enrich themselves with lost Church lands.
2. In 1524 the peasants using Luther’s teaching about the equality of all Christians rose up in bloody rebellion against their masters.
3. The rebellion was put down with more bloodshed.
4. Then a civil war broke out in Germany pitting Luthers against Catholics.
5. Charles V called a diet to resolve the conflict and reunite the princes to form an alliance to help Charles against the Turks.
   a) Luther’s good friend Melancthon drew up a list of principles about Lutheran beliefs from which a compromise could be made - the Augsburg Confession.

THE GERMAN PRINCES

6. The Lutherans were not happy with the results of the diet and protested the outcome.
7. In 1555 at the Peace of Augsburg were princes allowed to choose the religion of their subjects - thus establishing permanent Protestant states.
8. Luther died in his sleep in February 18, 1546.
1. Calvin was born in France in 1509, 
a) He studied for an ecclesiastical career at the University of Paris and became acquainted with Luther’s teachings. 
b) In trouble with the Catholic government of France he fled to Switzerland.

2. The Institutes of the Christian Religion 
a) His concept of Protestant theology and church organization.

a) Scripture alone was the supreme authority in a Christian’s life. 
b) Humanity does not have free will. 
c) All humanity was totally corrupt and incapable of doing anything good. 
d) All sacraments were denied. 
e) All religious images, vestments, altars, confessionals and stained glass windows depicting the saints were to be destroyed. 
f) Religious services were to consist of prayers, sermons and singing psalms.

3. Predestination. 
a) Since salvation depended solely on God’s free decision, Calvin maintained that God had chosen some to be saved and most to be damned. 
i. The Elect 
1) The saved 
2) Identified by their good moral behavior and earthly success.

ii. Calvin was then invited to set up a theocracy in the city of Geneva.
   i. No expression of religious freedom was tolerated. 
   ii. Anything remotely resembling Catholicism was banned.

iii. Adultery, heresy, striking a parent and blasphemy were capital offenses. 
iv. Dancing, card playing, drinking, braiding hair, or falling asleep during sermons were punished. 
v. Twice a year homes were inspected to ensure orthodoxy.

There is no dancing here!
4. Calvin started a school to train ministers in his version of Protestantism and since students came from all over Europe, Calvinism became the predominant Protestant religion in Europe.

5. Ulrich Zwingli established a theocracy in Zurich.

A. Henry VIII & His Need for a Son and Heir.

1. Henry had written *In Defense of the Seven Sacraments* when the Luther controversy began.

2. The pope was so pleased that he gave Henry the title Defender of the Faith.

3. Henry had married Catherine of Aragon, his brother’s widow.

4. Catherine was unable to give Henry a son, although they did have a daughter, Mary.

5. Henry felt that he had to have a son to succeed him and he also began an affair with a lady-in-waiting to the queen named Anne Boleyn.

B. Henry Seeks an Annulment

1. Saying that the pope should never have given permission for him to marry his sister-in-law, Henry petitioned for an annulment.

2. When Pope Clement VII refused, Henry then named Thomas Cranmer (a secret Lutheran) to the office of archbishop of Canterbury and Cranmer secretly married Henry and nullified Henry’s marriage to Catherine.
3. Anne gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth.

4. Henry saw to it that parliament passed the Act of Supremacy, making him, not the pope, head of the Church.

5. All subjects were required to take an oath of allegiance to the king as head of the Church and anyone who spoke against the law would be punished by death.

Henry was determined to enforce his will on England.

Only one English bishop, St. John Fisher, refused to take the oath and was ultimately beheaded.

And Sir Thomas More, chancellor of England and good friend of Henry also refused to take the oath and was beheaded.

More was a leading humanist of his time, wrote Utopia, trying to show a perfect realm. He also called for Church reform.

Henry confiscated all monastic properties, keeping anything of value for himself and redistributing the land among his friends.

Henry still considered himself a Catholic and his theology was completely Catholic aside from rejecting the pope’s authority.

When Henry died his son Edward VI (mother was Jane Seymour) succeeded him.

Edward’s regents tried to turn the country Lutheran.

But when Edward died the country turned to Henry’s oldest daughter Mary who had kept her Catholic faith.

Mary was determined to bring England back to the pope, executed most of the leaders of Edward VI and married Philip II, king of Spain.

Mary only lived for five more years and at her death, her half sister Elizabeth came to the throne.
**E. ELIZABETH I**


---

**Part IV**

**THE CATHOLIC REVIVAL – THE COUNCIL OF TRENT (1545)**

---

**A. CONVENING THE COUNCIL**

1. It took three popes before the council could be convened to deal with the abuses in the Church and answers to the Protestant reformers.
   a) Problems arose with the rivalry between Charles V and Francis I of France - both rulers wanted control of the council.
   b) Protestants insisted they be invited and their theology be the basis for the discussions and when this was refused, tried their best to stop Catholic revival.
   c) Even before the Council met, reform had already begun in Spain and in the city of Rome itself.

---

**CONVENING THE COUNCIL**

b) Finally the city of Trent in northern Italy was chosen and in 1545 the council began. It was interrupted 3 different times but at last the Catholic Church had reformed itself.

---

**CONVENING THE COUNCIL**

2. Paul III
   a) Paul faced interference not only from secular rulers but even from his closest advisors who were afraid that reform would bring an end to patronage and financial benefits.

---

**B. TEACHINGS AND REFORMS OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Sacred Scripture
   a) In matters of Faith and morals, the Tradition of the Church together with the Bible (not the Bible alone) is the source of Catholic belief.
   b) Private interpretation of the Bible is forbidden.
   c) The Council indicated that the Latin Vulgate was the authoritative text for Sacred Scripture and the books contained in it was the complete canonical list.
2. Original Sin
   a) Did not destroy human freedom and humanity’s ability to cooperate with grace.
   b) Although Jesus had most certainly justified and restored each person’s relationship to God the Father by His death on the Cross, Baptism makes people children of God who can freely choose to cooperate with God in their own salvation.
   c) Faith comes to us as a free gift from God but good works guided by faith are necessary for salvation.

3. The Sacraments
   a) 7 sacraments were instituted by Christ (not just two).

4. Reforms
   a) The abuses of clerical benefices were done away with.
   b) Seminary
      i. In every diocese for the instruction of priests
   c) Bishops
      i. head only one diocese
      ii. could not leave their diocese for more than 3 months at a time.
   d) Missal
      i. the prayers and rituals of the Mass
      ii. all Masses would be offered in the same manner by all priests.
   e) All abuses of indulgences were abolished.

f) Catechisms
   i. the teachings of the Church and were to be used in instructing the faithful.

h) Breviary
   i. A special prayer book for the use of all priests.

C. Application of the Tridentine Reform
1. Unfortunately Trent did not bring about immediate reforms.
   a) Many secular princes refused to accept the Council’s statements.
   b) Only the good example of churchmen would convince Christians that Trent will work.
2. Pope St. Pius V continued to live as a Dominican monk while he took charge of the affairs of the Church.
3. St. Peter Canisius wrote a Catholic Catechism that offered a clear and readable explanation of Catholic doctrine.
4. St. Charles Borromeo as archbishop of Milan completely reformed his diocese proving that the Tridentine reforms could be put into practice.
1. Once the Muslim Turks had conquered Constantinople in 1453 they proceeded to conquer one eastern European country after another.

2. By 1529 they were laying siege to Vienna and were turning the Mediterranean into a Muslim lake.

3. The Knights Hospitallers were able to hold off an attack on Malta against impossible odds but the Muslim fleet had gathered near Greece and Pope St. Pius was afraid it would bring Europe to its knees.

4. The pope financed a Christian fleet and urging all Catholics to pray the Rosary, the Christian fleet defeated the larger Turkish force on October 7, 1571, thus saving Europe from Islam.

E. Reforming the Orders

1. St. Philip Neri
   a) St. Philip Neri helped to bring back a spirit of piety to the city of Rome.
   b) He founded the Oratorians, a congregation of secular priests who dedicated themselves to the spiritual formation and support of the clergy.

2. St. Teresa of Avila (mystic)
   a) A Catholic reaction against the Protestant outlook toward the unworthiness of humanity, the denial of free will and the futility of good deeds took place after Trent.
   c) After 20 years of living a lukewarm life in the Carmelite convent of the Incarnation in Avila, Teresa decided to take her vowed life seriously and founded her first convent devoted to prayer.
   d) She reformed the Carmelite order, developed a deep prayer life and wrote many books on prayer, the most famous The Interior Castle.
   e) She was made a doctor of the Church in 1970.

F. St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Society of Jesus

1. St. Ignatius was trained from boyhood to be a knight and served in the Spanish court where he lived a worldly life.

2. At the Battle of Pamplona he was wounded, but the enemy was so impressed with his bravery that they actually brought him home to be nursed.

3. He was forced to read a life of the saints and a life of Christ and realized he was serving the wrong king.
4. He then dedicated his life to Jesus, became a hermit and during this time wrote the *Spiritual Exercises*, a guide for spiritual perfection.

5. He decided God was calling him to the priesthood and went to the University of Paris to study and there met 7 companions.

6. Together they formed the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), pledged themselves to serve the pope and became involved in every facet of the Church’s ministry.