





*Questioning the Church and the
response from the Catholic
Church*



The Reformation, Counter-
Reformation, and societal impacts
1500-1700



Fundamental Christian Question:



★ How can sinful human beings gain salvation?



★ Two responses:

- The Church
- The Person



Two theories that are incompatible



Response #1: The Church

★ In order to be saved...

- The Church acts as the intermediary
- Participation in Church rituals
 - 7 sacraments (baptism, confirmation, matrimony, the Eucharist, ordination, penance, and extreme unction)





Response #2: The Person



- ★ People can be saved by their own faith in God and love of him (humanism)
- ★ Emphasized inward and personal belief
- ★ Focused on God as the source of grace
 - Ideas that came from early church fathers such as St. Augustine





*Why are these theories
incompatible with each other?*





Why do you think there were criticisms of the Catholic Church?

- ★ Christian humanism
- ★ Desiderius Erasmus: let's change the church
- ★ Corruption
- ★ Popes and war
- ★ It's all about the Benjamins
- ★ indulgences





Secular interests of the papacy

- ★ Popes acted like princes
 - Consolidated lands in the Italian peninsula
 - Julius II (1503-1513) → Warrior Pope
- ★ Focused on secular issues (art patronage) and not on spiritual duties
- ★ Ecclesiastical offices were bought and sold
- ★ Intentions of bishops and priests were no longer spiritual





Anticlericalism



★ The people thought...

- Priests, monks, nuns were profiting from their positions
- Exploiting the people
- Offering no moral leadership or spiritual guidance

Movements like Hus, Wycliffe, and Savonarola became popular.





Spread of new ideas

- ★ Ideas that spread at taverns from travelers
- ★ Roaming pastors
- ★ Annual festivals

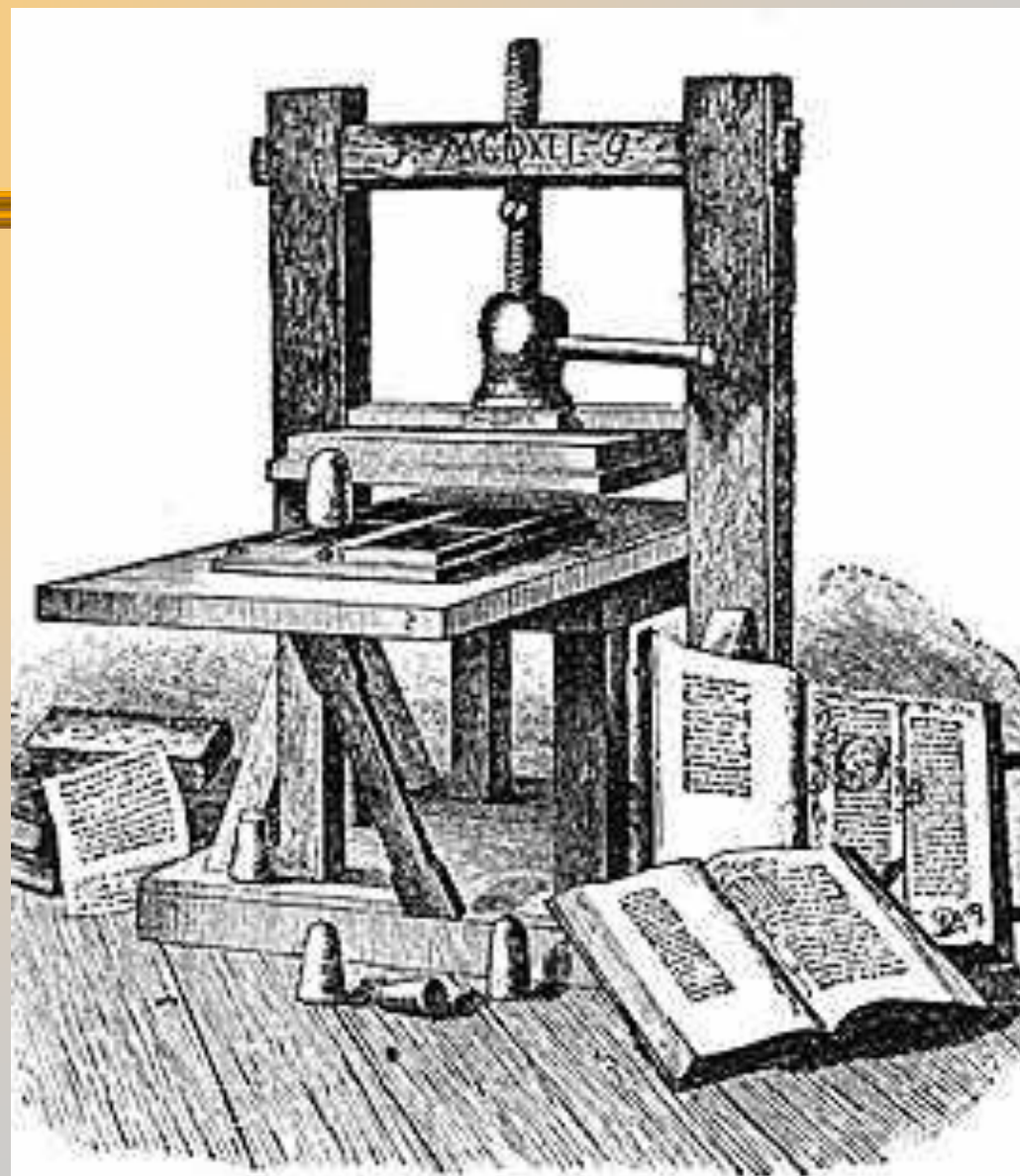




Impact of the printing press

- ★ For at least 100 years, Europeans had known how to print but not how to change the process from page to page
 - Johannes Gutenberg in the mid 1400s.
- ★ 9 million books printed by 1500







Christian humanism

- ★ Sir Thomas More (1478-1535) *Utopia*
 - *Should a learned person withdraw from the world to avoid the corruptions of politics or actively participate in affairs of state to guide policy?*
- ★ Erasmus (1466?-1536) *The Praise of Folly*
 - Launches satirical attacks against the pope, and meaningless ceremonies and rituals
 - Pokes fun at himself, friends, and others saying that folly is needed in life. Christianity has even a little folly (believing in something unseen)





Why Martin Luther?

★ Who was Luther?

- Miner's son from Saxony in central Germany
- First studied law
- Underwent a religious experience (caught in a bad storm) while traveling
- Became a Augustinian friar
- Was a professor at the university in Wittenberg, Saxony







Luther's struggle

★ How can sinful human beings gain salvation? *And* How does one reconcile the answer to this question with the justice of God?





The answer to the struggle...



- ★ Romans 1:17 (Justification by faith alone)
- ★ Luther believed that personal efforts could not earn the sinner salvation...belief and grace were the only way to obtain grace.





Early confrontation with the Church

- ★ What did the 95 Theses nailed to the door of the Wittenberg church attack?
- ★ Indulgences
 - What is an indulgence
 - Started by a friar named Tetzel. It involved the cancellation of a punishment by the church to a confessed sinner. It was a way for the church to raise money to build new cathedrals and cancel loans that private families had given to the Catholic Church







Luther's intentions

- ★ 95 Theses were intended to reform Catholic church, not divide it.
- ★ Debated the Pope and the Church
 - States that only the Bible could determine correct religious practices and beliefs
- ★ Edict of Worms → defending his writings and beliefs
 - “Here I stand. I can do no other.”





The results of Luther's stand

- ★ Pope excommunicates Luther
- ★ He is an outlaw in the Holy Roman Empire (which includes Germany)
- ★ Forced into hiding. Protected by a Frederick III of Saxony for a year.
 - Only protected Luther because Luther was his subject but did not agree with his teachings.





Luther's writings

- ★ *Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation (1520)*
 - Urged nobles and clergy to reform the Church
- ★ *Babylonian Captivity (1520)*
 - Attacked the 7 sacraments, reducing them to 2
- ★ *Freedom of the Christian Man (1520)*
 - Views on faith, good works, nature of God, and the supremacy of political authority over believers
- ★ *Against the Murderous, Thieving Hordes of the Peasants (1524)*
 - In response to the Peasants' revolt and stated his belief that political leaders should control both the church and society





Developments of Lutheranism

- ★ Originally known as “Protestant”
 - Applied to all Western European religions that did not agree with the Church
- ★ Peasants revolted based upon the ideas of Luther
 - Luther helped nobles put down this rebellion, resulting in the deaths of 70,000 to 100,000.
- ★ Denmark, Sweden, and parts of Germany become Lutheran
 - Educational reform, including schools for girls





Other Reformers: Zwingli, Anabaptists, and Calvin

- ★ Introduced efforts to reform Church in Zurich, Switzerland
- ★ Rejected...
 - Clerical celibacy, worship of saints, fasting, transubstantiation, purgatory, stripped churches of decorations. Church attendance was mandatory, punished by government for those that didn't attend.
- ★ Civil war to follow...
 - Ideas led to fighting, his capture and execution, and an agreement that each canton (province) could follow whatever religion they chose.





Anabaptists



- ★ Believed that children needed to be “rebaptized” as adults.
- ★ Return to practices of early Christian church
- ★ Mostly workers and peasants
- ★ Followed Old Testament practices, including polygamy and abolishment of private property
- ★ Protestant and Catholic armies capture Anabaptist city of Munster, execute leaders in 1535.
- ★ Anabaptists become pacifists and avoid involvement with the government
 - Modern day Mennonites and Amish



King O' England



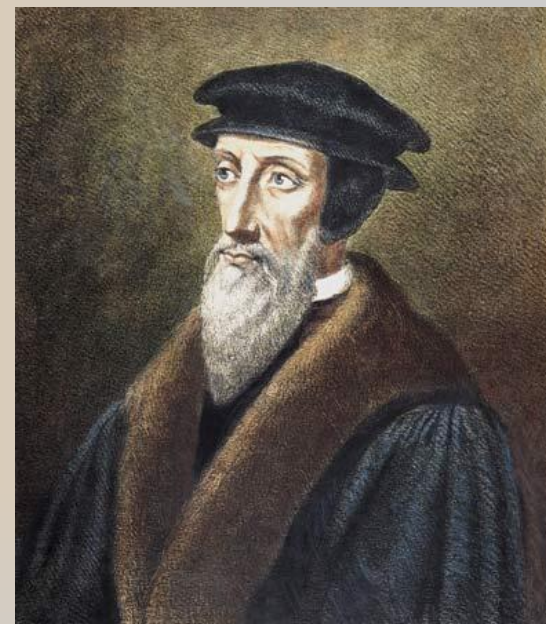
- ★ Henry wanted a divorce from Catherine
- ★ Pope said no
- ★ Henry split from the Church; married Anne Boleyn
- ★ English church approved his annulment
- ★ Anglican or Episcopalian church was formed
- ★ “Divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived”
- ★ Religious disagreements followed





John Calvin

- ★ Emphasized the doctrine of predestination
- ★ Church and state should never unite
- ★ Followers of Calvinism became the most militant and uncompromising of all Protestants





Results of Religious Upheavals

- ★ Creation of new churches
- ★ New interest in education
- ★ Increase in the power of national governments and decrease in papal power





The Church responds

- ★ Jesuits: helped strengthen the church, obedience to the pope, missionary work
- ★ Reform of the Papacy: less politics
- ★ Council of Trent: met on and off for 18 years, reaffirmed traditional Catholic beliefs, seven sacraments were upheld, selling of indulgences forbidden





Ignatius of Loyola

- ★ Studied the Bible as he recovered from war injuries
- ★ Salvation could only be achieved by self-discipline and effort to do good works
- ★ Organized the Jesuits like a military
 - Spread Catholicism throughout the world
 - Stressed education (developed best colleges in Europe)
 - Opposed killing heretics





Today



★ There are over 1000 protestant Christian groups



★ Catholics and Protestants continue to fight in areas like Northern Ireland



★ Four meta groups: Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican