

A Pilgrim People

The Story of Our Church

Presented by:



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Early Church Growth & Threats (30-312 AD)

Controversies and Councils (313-450 AD)

Rise of Christendom (450-1050 AD)

High Medieval Church (1050-1300 AD)

Renaissance to Reformation (1300-1600 AD)

Worldwide Growth (<1500-1900 AD)

Revolution to Renewal (1600-2000 AD)

Part 5 – Renaissance to Reformation

A nighttime photograph of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy. The basilica is illuminated with warm yellow lights, highlighting its classical facade with columns and arches. The large dome is also lit up. To the right, the Fontana del Gallo is visible, with water spraying upwards. The sky is a deep blue, suggesting dusk or dawn.

Opening Prayer



Decline of Christendom

14th - 15th
Centuries



- Black Death, 1/3 population died
- Decline of Papal Monarchy
 - 7 Popes ruled from Avignon France
 - Were 2 or 3 “Popes” at the same time for over 40 years
- Clergy corrupt and uneducated
- Church too political and worldly
 - Sale of Indulgences
- Abuses of the Inquisition
 - Torture, death



Discussion Question

14th - 15th
Centuries



- Even though it's difficult to understand or accept today, what was the justification for The Inquisition at that time?

Islamic Expansion

1453 + Ottoman Turks Seize Constantinople



Ended Byzantine
(Eastern Roman)
Empire

Of 5 ancient
Patriarchs, only
Rome still
Christian

- Jerusalem
- Constantinople
- Alexandria
- Antioch





Renaissance

- **“Renaissance” term for rebirth or revival**
 - **Period from 1304 to 1576 A.D. a time humanistic revival of classical art, architecture, literature, and learning in Western Europe**
- **Return to classical Greek art styles**
 - **Blend Christianity with the teachings of the Greek philosophy and culture**
- **Fostered an overall sense of human creativity and ingenuity**



Effects of The Renaissance

14th - 15th
Centuries



- The Renaissance encouraged people to analyze and evaluate their lives
 - Led to questioning of beliefs and structures
 - Precursor to the Protestant Reformation



Effects of The Renaissance

14th - 15th
Centuries



- **John Wyclif (1324-1384)**
 - Argued that Scripture was more important than Tradition
 - Argued that Christ, alone, was head of the Church
- **John Hus (1369-1415)**
 - Called for a return to Gospel poverty and simplicity
 - Condemned at the Council of Constance ... executed

Protestant Reformation

1517




- Martin Luther credited with beginning the Reformation, but he was reacting to practices that many felt needed to be addressed
- October 31, 1517, Augustinian Fr. Martin Luther posted a letter to Archbishop Albrecht outlining some “issues” (“95 Theses”) with current state of Church affairs
 - His desire was to stimulate debate, not fracture the faith





Protestant Reformation



- 
- Why didn't the Protestant Reformation stop when Martin Luther was an excommunicated outlaw?
 - What political forces drove the growth and popularity of the Reformation?



Protestant Reformation Reasons

- **Resentment of Church leaders' extravagant lifestyle**
 - Church leaders had too much secular power
- **Desire to be free of Papal authority**
 - Including not have to send money to Rome
- **Buying and selling of Church offices**
 - Rich families controlled appointment of bishops
- **Poorly trained and uneducated lower clergy**
 - Lack of systematic clergy educational system



Protestant Reformation Reasons

- **Nationalism**
 - After fall of Roman Empire, city-states joined together; regional then *national* identity
- **Individualistic Humanism**
 - From Renaissance, humanism sparked desire for learning among common people
- **Invention of Printing Press**
 - Gave more people access to writings in their language, including Scriptures and Luther's





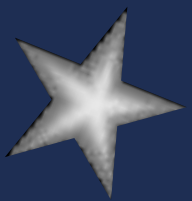
Protestant Reformation

- Initially, the reformers focused on ridding the Church of corrupt practices
- As time passed, several key theological positions were developed in opposition to Church teaching
- Three main differences have lasted until today and often separate Catholics and Protestants
 1. Scripture versus Tradition
 2. Justification by faith alone
 3. Priesthood



Protestant: Scripture

- One of Luther's fundamental principles was "sola scriptura"
 - Scripture alone is source of divine revelation
 - Bible is infallible; always literally true
- Humans not perfect; thus subject to error
 - Critique of papacy and councils
- Return to Scriptures for guidance in the spiritual life



Discussion Questions

- **What do you think of Luther's claim that Scripture is the only authority for Christian life and sole source of Divine Revelation?**
- **What is the Catholic view on this question?**



Catholic: Scripture

- **Scripture and Tradition inseparable**
 - **New Testament written by members of the first Christian communities**
 - **Canon of Scripture established by the early Church**
- **Scripture and Tradition are unified channels of revelation and are both the basis for truth**
 - **Both are from God; inspired by God**
- **Tradition is based on reflecting and applying Scripture to various life situations**



Protestant: Justification

- **Luther witnessed confused understanding of how someone was saved**
 - **Rural Christians treated sacraments as magic rites granting salvation**
 - **Humanism placed the importance of action and growth entirely on the human person**
 - **Luther rejected both**



Protestant: Justification

- **Justification by faith alone:**
 - **God’s gracious act of rendering a sinful human to be holy as acceptable to God**
 - “like snow covering dung”
 - **Complete trust in God; faith as a gift from God**
 - **Works are a way of expressing faith not increasing it**



Catholic: Justification

- Humans are active recipients of God's grace
- Faith is not a personal, exclusive relationship between an individual and God
 - Faith is expressed in the context of the community
 - Jesus as our Lord and Savior
- Actions (sacraments) are a necessary part of living out a life of receiving God's grace
- James 2:14-26
 - “Faith without works is dead”



Protestant: Priesthood

- **Luther opposed a separate priestly caste**
 - Praised the Christian family as ideal state
 - As a priest himself, he later married and fathered children
 - Priesthood of all believers
 - By virtue of faith, all Christians are priests
- **Less importance placed on ritual actions**
 - “Word” more important than ritual actions
 - Pulpit replaced altar in significance



Catholic: Priesthood

- All Christians share in priesthood of Baptized
 - All responsible to preach the Good News
- Christ instituted priesthood at Last Supper
 - Washing the feet of the Apostles
 - Priesthood in terms of service
- Priests also responsible for offering sacrifices on behalf of the people
 - Referring to the Jewish priesthood
 - Various rites; sacraments
 - Acting in *persona Christi*



Other Reformers

- **John Calvin (1509-1564) enormous impact on Reformed Christianity**
- **Established a Presbyterian form of leadership:**
 - **Governance by a group of elders**
- **Based all laws on Bible as interpreted by elders**
- **Predestination:**
 - **Belief that God has selected some people for hell and others for heaven regardless of any personal actions or merit**
 - **Not many included in the “elect”**



Protestant Reformation

- For three decades, attempts were made to reconcile differences to foster unity
- Peace of Augsburg, 1555 A.D.
 - The prince or king of each state could select either Catholicism or Lutheranism as the official religion of his territory
 - People who didn't want to join the local religion could move to a different territory
- Thus, Luther's call for scholarly debate became the basis for a state-supported religion separate from Catholicism



Protestant Reformation

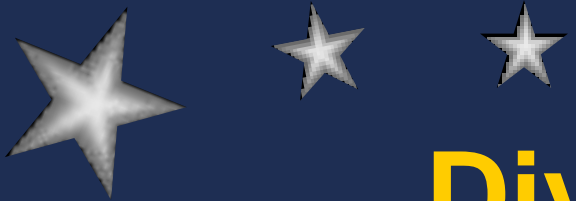
- **Results of Protestant Reformation**
 - **Crisis in Church more devastating than:**
 - Roman Empire Persecutions
 - Arian Heresy
 - Barbarian Invasions
 - Great Schism with Eastern Orthodox Church
 - **Thousands of priests & nuns left Church**
 - **1/2 of Europe no longer Roman Catholic**
 - **Thousands died from “religious” wars**





Discussion Questions

- What was the justification at the time for these “religious” civil wars?
- Today, what do we “really believe in” so much today that we are “willing to kill” for it? What, if anything, does this say about our beliefs?



Divided Christianity





Divided Christianity

- **France:**
 - **Protestants didn't have much influence**
 - **Government had better control of internal affairs**
 - **French scholars negated Protestant ideas early on**
 - **French Protestants:**
 - **Huguenots gained strength during 16th century**
 - **Edict of Nantes, 1598:**
 - **Decree granting some rights to Huguenots including building churches in specific villages**
 - **Ended a series of religious wars in France**
 - **Protestant-Catholic conflicts created a critical attitude toward Church leaders**



Divided Christianity

- **Spain:**
 - **Avoided Protestant influence due to three factors:**
 1. **Reforms of Queen Isabella**
 2. **Threat of force from The Inquisition**
 3. **Exceptional spiritual figures (mystics)**





Divided Christianity

- **England**

- **In 1533 King Henry VIII declared head of the Church of England**
 - **Separation from Rome and rest of Church**
 - **Initially separation based on political, not religious, issues**
- **The Church of England (Anglican Church) is not fully Protestant, yet not fully Catholic**



Divided Christianity

PRE-REFORMATION PERIOD

Roman Catholicism	
Gnostics	c. 200
Coptic Church	452
Eastern Orthodoxy	1054
Waldensians	1173
Peter Waldo	
Lollards	c.1379
John Wycliffe	
Hussites	1415
John Huss (Jan Hus)	

16TH CENTURY

Lutheranism	1517
Martin Luther	
Anabaptism	1521
Scandinavian Lutherans	
Christian II	
Zwinglianism	1523
Huldreich Zwingli	

16TH CENTURY (CONTINUED)

Anglicanism	1534
Henry VIII	
Mennonites	c.1536
Menno Simons	
Calvinism	1536
John Calvin	
German Reformed Church	c.1540s
Hungarian Reformed Church	c.1550s
French Calvinists	
Scottish Presbyterians	c.1560
John Knox	
Congregationalism	1560
Puritans	
Dutch Reformed Church	c.1570s

17TH CENTURY

English Baptists	c.1606
John Smyth	
Quakers	1647
George Fox	
Amish	c.1690
Jacob Ammon	

18TH CENTURY

Moravians	c.1722
Count Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf	
Methodism	1739
John Wesley	
Shakers	1776
Ann Lee	
Protestant Episcopal Church	1785
Swedenborgians	1789
Emanuel Swedenborg	

19TH CENTURY

United Brethren in Christ	1800
Philip Otterbein	
Evangelical Association	1807
Jacob Albright	
Unitarianism US	1819
William Ellery Channing	
Christian Churches	1827
Barton W. Stone	
Hicksites	c.1828
Elias Hicks	
Disciples of Christ	1831
Thomas Campbell	
Anglo-Catholicism	1833
Seventh-Day Adventists	1863
William Miller	
Salvation Army	1865
William Booth	
Christian Science	1879
Mary Baker Eddy	



Catholic Counter-Reformation

16th
Century



- Catalyzed by Luther and the reformers
 - Reform from within, not simply an attempt to “one-up” Luther and the reformers
- Attempted to clean up corruption in practices and clarify Church teaching on various matters
- Closely identified with Council of Trent



Catholic Counter-Reformation

1545



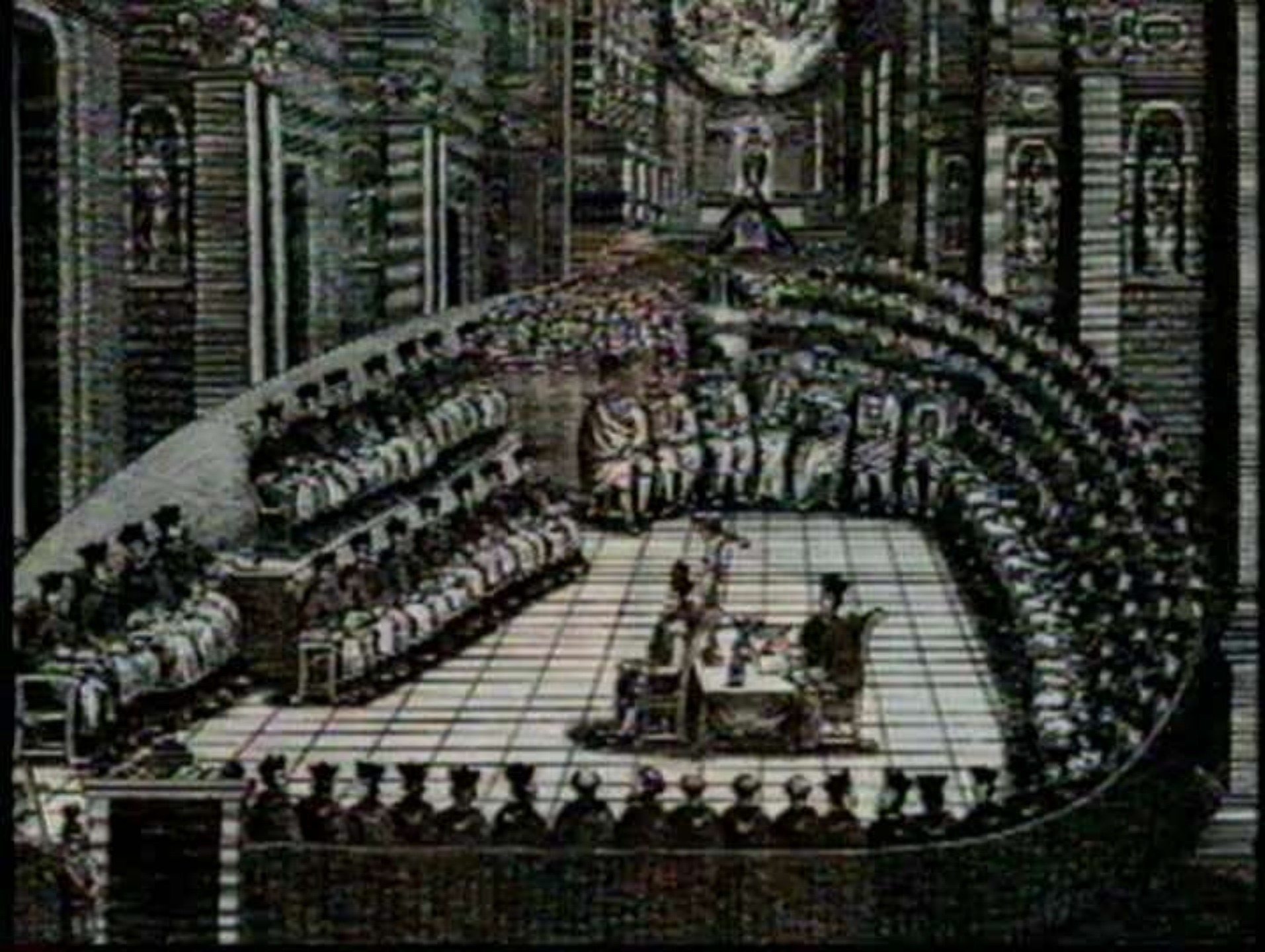
- In 1545, Council of Trent opened
 - 30 - 70 Bishops attended
 - Frightened (for their life)
 - Siege Mentality
 - Protect and defend what was left
 - World hostile, to be feared
 - Made true reforms



1563



- In 1563, Council of Trent Ended



Council of Trent

1545

• Address Organizational Breakdown

– Revitalization of ordained priesthood and episcopacy

- Bishops to reside in their dioceses and act as true shepherds
- Priests to live out celibate commitment and wear distinctive clothing
- Seminary training formalized for all priests-to-be

1563



Council of Trent

1545

● Reformed the Mass

– Were Abuses

- Too much local variation
- Some bizarre, scandalous, eccentric
- Simony (hawking Masses)

– Tridentine Mass

- Uniform religious expression for Roman Catholics worldwide
- Latin only

1563



Council of Trent

1545



1563

- Firmly established traditional Church structure
 - Highly authoritarian, hierarchical, centralized
 - Papal supremacy
 - Basically medieval
 - No administrative participation by laity
 - Laity to “pray, pay and obey”



Discussion Question

1545



1563

- What are your thoughts on the various reforms instituted by the Council of Trent? Were they helpful or not at the time? How about later?

Catholic Counter-Reformation



- **St. Ignatius of Loyola**
 - **Founder of Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1534**
 - **Spearheaded implementation of Trent Reforms**



Post-Trent Catholic Renewal

16th Century



- **Catholic Reform Spirituality**
 - Devout Eucharistic piety
 - Strive to acquire virtues
 - Self-discipline, self-control
 - Deep prayer and mysticism
 - St. Teresa of Avila
 - St. John of the Cross
 - Many new religious orders
 - Zeal for works of charity
 - St. Vincent de Paul & Grey Nuns



1563 - 1963

**FOR NEXT 400 YEARS
NOTHING CHANGED
IN ROMAN CATHOLIC
BELIEFS OR
PRACTICES**



Discussion Question

- **What did you learn today that you found most relevant and interesting?**

A night photograph of a grand, illuminated church with a large dome and a fountain in the foreground. The church is lit up with warm yellow lights, and the fountain is also illuminated. The sky is a deep blue.

Next Week: Worldwide Growth of the Church

- **Americas**
- **Asia: India, Philippines**
- **Africa**



Closing Prayer