

CHY4U – The West & the World

The Protestant Reformation

The just shall live by faith.

St. Paul, Romans I, 17

Background

- The reformation was a split of the Church.
- The reformation occurred out of the grievances of several dissatisfied groups within Europe.
- Peasants, the urban middle class and the Princes of Europe all had some conflict with the Church.
- It was initiated in the Holy Roman Empire by the ideas of a monk named Martin Luther.

Guttenberg & Printing

- The invention of the printing press by Johannes Guttenberg (1390 – 1468) ended the church's monopoly over the written word.
- Reformers, like Luther, began to write in vernacular (ordinary/everyday) languages and translated the bible as well.

Major Printing Centers with Date of Establishment

- 15th century
- 16th century
- Political boundaries in 1490



Indulgences

- An indulgence was salvation for sale, people could buy “forgiveness” for their sins or those of their relatives and spend less time in purgatory before entering heaven.
- The sale of indulgences was a huge fundraiser for the Pope who used the money for the construction of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. (The Vatican)
- Many reformers, like Luther, saw the sale of indulgences, and higher church offices, as the worst example of the church’s corruption.

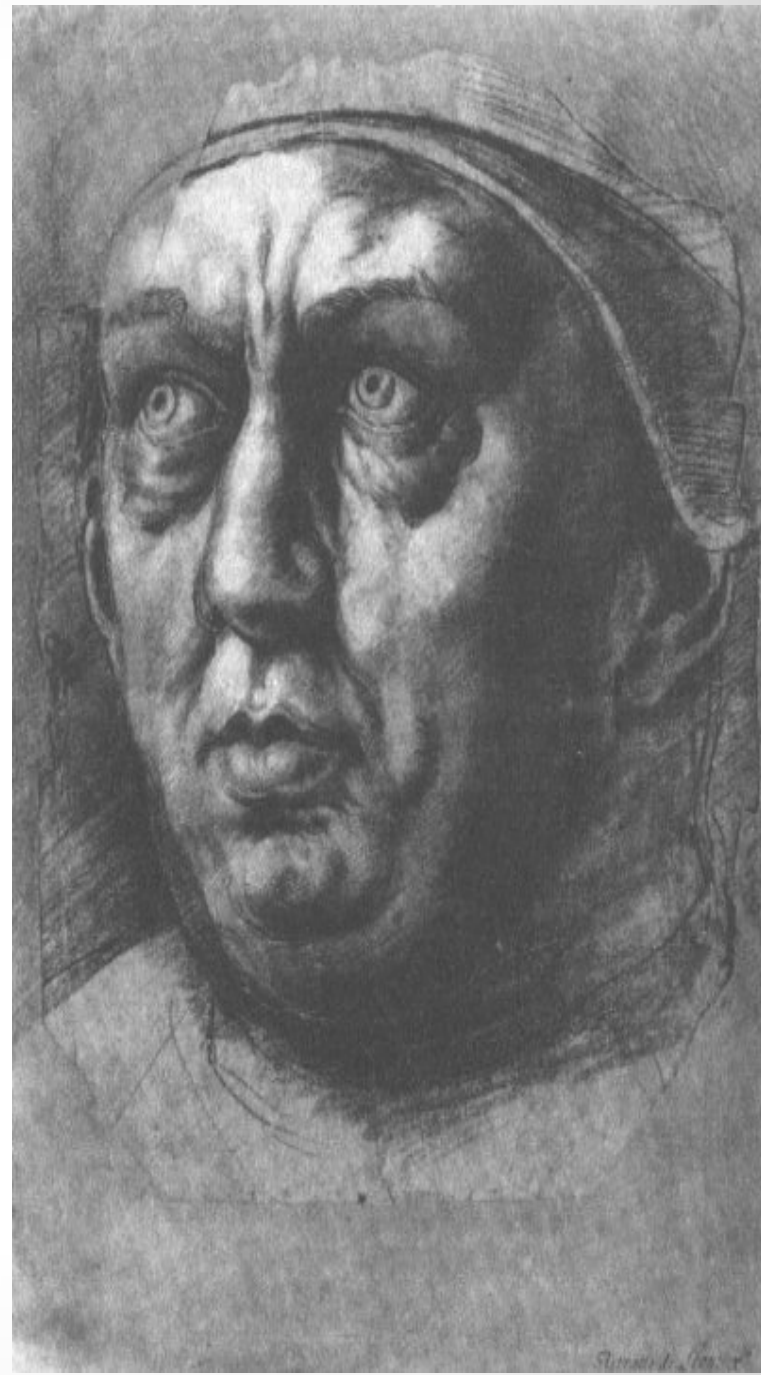
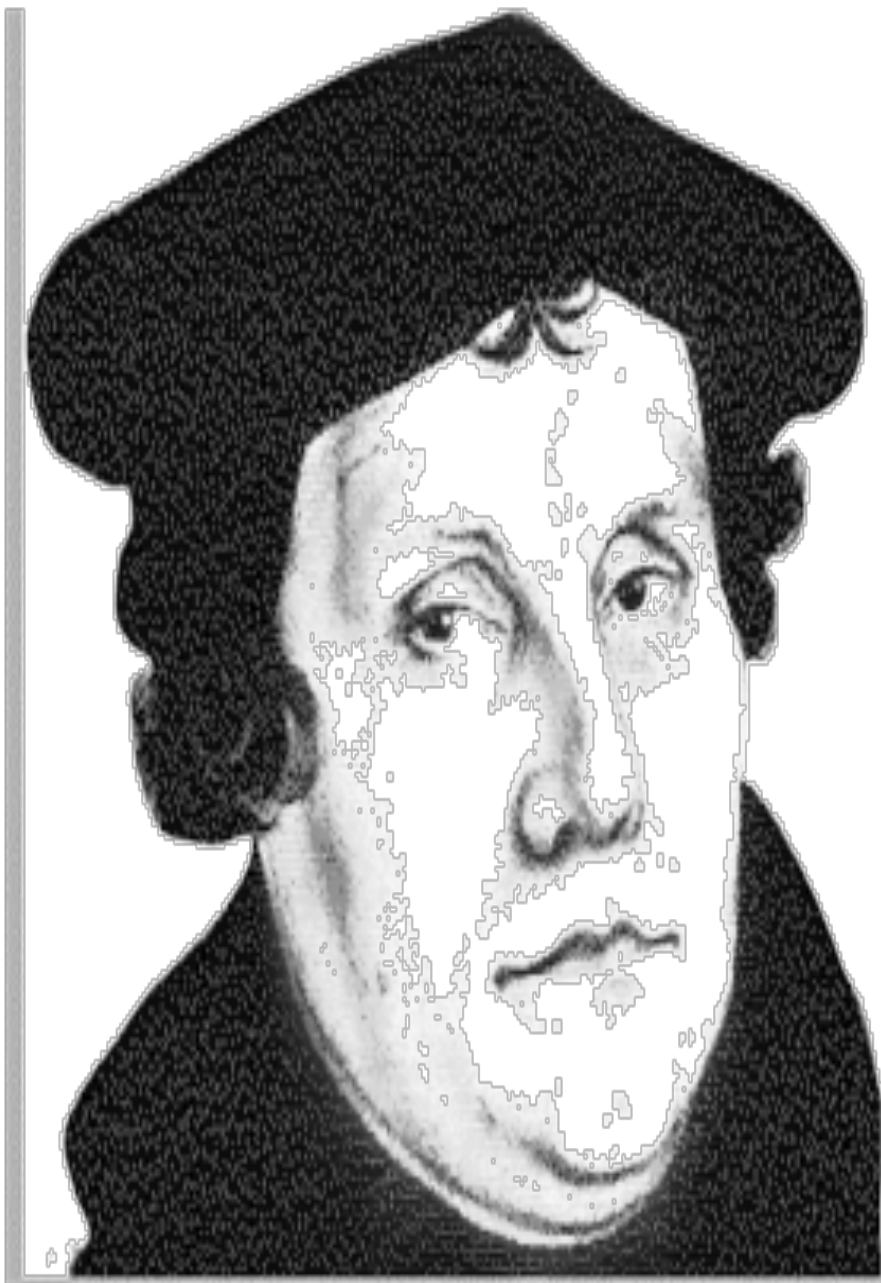
JOHANNES TECELIUS PIRNENSIS

Dominicanus, Nundinator Romani Pontificis, anno

1517. ἀνελεσθη LUTHERO territus & in fugam versus,
uti talio eius effigies videtur in templo Piracobi.

O ihr Deutschen merdet mich recht,
Des heiligen Vaters Pappstes Knecht
Bin ich, und bring euch ihr allein
Zehn tausent und neun hundert carren
Gnad und Ablass von einer Sünd
Vor euch, ein Eisen, Weib und Kind
Sol ein jeder gewehret sein,
Soviel ihr legt ins Kästlein,
Sobald der Hülon im Becken klinge,
Im huy die Seel in Himmel springt.





Luther Speaks Out

- In 1517, alarmed by the sale of indulgences in Wittenberg by a friar with the Pope's blessing; Luther spoke out against the practice.
- He felt that no payment or donation could obtain grace for one's soul.
- He wrote out his arguments against the practice of indulgences, known as the 95 theses.

- As was the accepted practice at the time, he published his theses by nailing them to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg.



The 95 Theses

- Luther discusses the sacrament of penance.
- Luther argued that after confession the sinner was forgiven by God and freed from the burden of sin through inner grace and faith alone.
- Luther argued that the priest essentially played no role in the relationship between a person and God.

Luther and Leo

- Initially Luther petitioned Pope Leo X (Giovanni De Medici) to correct the abuse of indulgences by the Church.
- Leo refused and Luther demanded that an assembly of the general church council be called.
- In August 1518, Luther was summoned to Rome to be tried as a heretic, Luther asked to be tried in Germany instead.



Luther's Ideas

- Luther, inspired by the writing of St. Paul – “*the just shall live by faith*” (Romans I, 17) developed a religious doctrine known as justification by faith.
- Luther believed, and argued; that actions, or works; like: prayer, attending mass, giving alms, and the sacraments did not “earn” grace or salvation.

Luther's Writings

- Luther's main writings and arguments at the time called for major changes based on his ideology of "*sole fide*," faith alone.
- He argued that no difference existed between clergy and lay persons.
- He argued that people could interpret the Bible for themselves.

Luther's Heresy

- In 1519 a debate between Luther and John Eck, a theological prodigy who received his first PhD at the age of 15, was arranged.
- Held at Leipzig in Saxony, Eck was able to get Luther to make heretical statements as Luther denied the authority of the Pope and the Catholic Church.

VERA IMAGO IOHANNIS ECKII
THEOLOGIE D. AETATIS
SVAE XLIII.



WP

ECK EIN GROSSER FEIND CHRISTI WAR
HAT SEHR VERFOLGT DIE CHRISTLICH SCHAR
MIT SCHREIBEN VND VNNVCELEM GSCHWECZ
BRACHT ER DIE EINFELTIGEN INS NE CZ
EIFRIG VND BOS WAR ALL SEIN SIINN
VERGEBES IM GOTES IST LANG HIINN.



The Diet of Worms

- Luther, still being accused of heresy was summoned to appear before the Diet of Worms in 1521 to defend himself in front of the German princes.
- At the Diet, Luther defended his writings and refused to renounce his views.
- Charles V was forced to renounce Luther who was later excommunicated.



The Reformation Becomes Political

- Luther's reform program inspired reform. This impacted Princes as well as lay people
- Peasant Wars
- **What began as a theological debate over the sale of indulgences grew into a general call for church reform transformed into a broader social, economic and political upheaval.**
- Once unleashed, the forces inspired by the Reformation would irrevocably transform Europe.



The Catholic Reformation (Counter-Reformation)

- People in Europe felt that the church required reform before the Protestant Reformation.
- Critics of the church, like Erasmus, felt that change or reform was needed to eliminate corruption.
- It was not until the shock of the Reformation that church leaders were convinced of the need for change.

The Council of Trent

- Founded in the Italian city of Trent in May 1542, but did not start until 1544.
- The purpose was to define dogma and reform the church.
- Attempted to reunite Catholics & Protestants but debates over dogma (faith & practice) could not produce a compromise.
- Defined the seven sacraments.
- Council reaffirmed that both scripture and tradition were equal as sources of faith.
- The ability of lay people to interpret the Bible independent of the clergy was denied.

- Latin was maintained as the language of religious worship.
- The theory behind indulgences was upheld and the practices of their sale was restated.
- Bishops were forced to reside within their own diocese.
- People were banned from holding several church positions.
- Stricter education standards for priests were established and a seminary established in every diocese.

The Society of Jesus

- Known as the Jesuits, this monastic order was established by a decree of Pope Paul III in 1540 under the direction of St. Ignatius Loyola, a militant Spaniard.
- A much more active style of monasticism.
- Taught absolute submission to the church's teachings.
- Jesuits became international missionaries and educators in Europe and overseas.



Enforcing Belief

- In addition to the establishment of the Jesuits, the church reinstated the inquisition.
- Spanish Inquisition, originally began in 1480 to eliminate Muslims & Jews, now targeted heresy within Christianity.
- Inquisition employed torture and “trial by ordeal” to punish suspected heretics.

Conclusions

- The inability of the church to respond to the Reformation may be due to the number of different Popes.
- Each new Pope brought a different method of dealing with the Reformation.
- The church, and the Catholic states, were never able to develop a unified, anti-protestant front.