

# The Family Tree of Christianity

## Session 6: The Protestant Reformation (continued) (1300 – 1700)

### Review of Session 5

Highpoint of Medieval theology: Scholasticism

Thomas Aquinas, OP (1225-1274): *Summa Theologiae*

Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303): big claims, big fall

Conflict with king Philip IV of France

The Avignon Papacy (1305-1377)

Seven straight French popes: resided in Avignon (S. France)

Lavish papal court: extensive fee system, indulgences

Gregory XI returned papacy to Rome: role of Catherine of Siena

The Great Western Schism (1378-1417)

Rival popes and colleges of cardinals at Rome and Avignon

Universities took the lead in seeking resolution

Council at Pisa in 1409: third rival pope (John XXIII)

HRE Sigismund comes to rescue: Council of Constance (1414-18)

Ends the Schism: three rival popes deposed, Pope Martin V elected

Decrees superiority of council over pope and need for regular councils

Council of Basel-Florence (1431-45)

Ottoman Turks near Constantinople: East needs help from West

Bishops worked out reunion: but not accepted by faithful in East

Some areas did accept it: “uniate” (Eastern Rite Catholic)

1453: Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks

Precursors to Protestant reformers

John Wycliffe (1330-84): English priest-theologian at Oxford

Trained in high Scholasticism: turned more to Bible and early Church Fathers

Bible as sole criterion of doctrine: no Church authority could add

Bible to be interpreted by Church as a whole: translate into the vernacular

John Hus (1372-1415): Bohemian (Czech) reformer

Strongly attracted by Wycliffe’s ideas on the Bible and Church

He was summoned to Council of Constance in 1415: burned at stake

Formation of Hussite Church in Bohemia: communion of the cup to the laity

1450: Johannes Gutenberg invents the printing press

Literature and education now much more accessible: rapid spread of ideas

The Renaissance Papacy (1447-1513)

Callistus III (1455-58): Alfonso de Borgia

Made nephew, Rodrigo, cardinal at age 25 (future Pope Alexander VI)

Sixtus IV (1471-84): Francesco della Rovere, OFM

His nephews dragged him into the “Pazzi conspiracy” in Florence

At request of Ferdinand and Isabella he set up Spanish Inquisition in 1478

Transformed Rome from Medieval to Renaissance city: Sistine Chapel

Alexander VI (1492-1503): Rodrigo de Borgia (Spanish)

Lived openly licentious life, fathered several children

1493: drew a line of demarcation in New World (Spain & Portugal)

Julius II (1503-13): Giuliano della Rovere

Forceful ruler, ruthless, violent: *il terribile* (warrior for Christ)

Focused on establishing strong papacy free from Italian & foreign domination

1503: gave dispensation for Henry VIII of England to marry his deceased brother's widow (Catherine of Aragon)

1506: Julius commissioned Bramante to build new St. Peter's

Leo X (1513-21): Giovanni de Medici

Son of Lorenzo the Magnificent of Florence: very educated and cultured

Desperate for money to continue rebuild of St. Peter's: indulgence

Sadly unaware of the depth of the need for reform

### The Protestant Reformation

Political context: Holy Roman Empire (Germany)

Patchwork of practically sovereign states since 14<sup>th</sup> century

Holy Roman Emperor was weak; local nobles & dukes were strong

Hapsburgs emperors since 1438: lands in Austria & Holland

Philip married Juana of Spain: daughter of Ferdinand & Isabella

Their son became Charles I of Spain in 1516, and Emperor Charles V at age 19 (1519-56): vast lands, very powerful

Religious context: Indulgences

Council of Lateran IV (1215) made yearly confession mandatory

Sin must have a penalty, either on earth or later: purgatory

Forgiveness by God through sacrament erases eternal damnation: but temporal penalty remains

Confessor imposes temporal penance/penalty

Church can grant an "indulgence" for temporal penalty

Through "power of keys", pope can do this

Sacramental confession & true contrition are required first

Acts of devotion/charity to "earn" indulgence: alms, pilgrimage

Giving money to the Church as form of alms

Through communion of saints, faithful can apply to others

Indulgence earned for deceased loved one in purgatory

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

1483: Born in Saxony (N. Germany)

Stern father sent young Martin to study law at university

Thunderstorm: vowed to St. Anne he would become a monk

1505: he joined strict Augustinians of Erfurt, ordained as a priest

Introspective & brooding by nature: felt unworthy of God's love

Good works, prayer, & sacrament of penance didn't ease his fear

He struggled with reconciling God's love/mercy and God's justice

1512: doctorate in Scripture, taught at U. of Wittenberg

Began lecturing on Paul's Letter to Romans: "The righteous shall live by faith"

Moment of clarity: God clothes us in Christ's righteousness

God's declaration of our righteousness is received through faith

This is Luther's classic "justification by faith alone" (*sola fide*)

The scandalous indulgence of 1517: unholy alliance

Bishop Albrecht (23) sought to acquire third bishopric: Mainz

Needed huge sum to pay for papal dispensation to do this

Pope Leo X authorizes Albrecht to grant sale of indulgence

Money would go towards rebuilding of St. Peter's Basilica

Johann Tetzel (OP) to preach the indulgence: unscrupulous

Luther heard about Tetzel's scandalous methods: in confessional

Against his newfound understanding of justification by faith

Oct. 31, 1517: Luther nails 95 Theses on Indulgences to door of church in Wittenberg

Soon translated into German: printed, spread

They struck a chord with ordinary Germans: Roman fleeing  
1519: Johann Eck challenges Luther to debate at Leipzig  
Backed Luther into saying Constance erred in condemning John Hus  
Bible alone (*sola Scriptura*) is final authority for Christians  
1520: Pope Leo issues bull formally condemning Luther  
Given 60 days to recant and submit to Roman authority  
Luther and his supporters burned Leo's bull  
Many areas of Germany backed Luther: Germany vs. Rome  
This marked Luther's official break with Rome

Luther's great Reformation treatises of 1520  
"On Christian Liberty": exposition of justification by faith  
"Letter to the Christian Nobility of German Nation"  
His call for civil authorities to take up reform of the Church  
"The Babylonian Captivity of the Church"  
On the sacraments: only baptism & eucharist true sacraments  
Pope Leo X died in early 1521  
Succeeded by Hadrian VI (Dutch)  
Last non-Italian pope until Pope John Paul II (1978): 450 years!

Diet of Worms (1521)  
Luther was summoned before Emperor Charles V  
Refused to recant: "My conscience is prisoner to the Word of God"  
He was now an outlaw in Germany  
But he was protected by Duke Frederick of Saxony  
Began his great translation of the Bible into German  
Luther's movement and ideas spread like wildfire in Germany  
Often mixed motives: religion or politics or both?  
Monks & nuns left monasteries, married; priests married too

Rise of more radical wing of movement in Wittenberg  
Smashing of statues & "idols" in churches: iconoclasm  
Luther intervened: goal is reform, not revolution  
He issued official reformed ritual of mass  
Mass to be celebrated in the vernacular: German  
More emphasis on Scripture & preaching: longer sermons  
Simplified ritual, German hymns composed  
1525: he married Katharina von Bora (ex Cistercian nun)

Why didn't Emperor Charles V & Pope crush Luther's reform?  
Pope was allied with France: check Hapsburg power  
And the Ottoman Turks were at gates of Vienna (Austria)  
Charles unable to dedicate resources to stopping Luther's reform

Diet of Speyer (1528)  
Emperor tried to pass law to end toleration of Lutherans in Germany  
5 princes and 14 cities registered formal "protest": Protestants  
So each German state given freedom to choose religious allegiance

Diet of Augsburg (1530)  
Charles V needed to unite his realm against Turks  
Sought conciliation with Lutherans: asked for orderly exposition  
Philip Melancthon composed "Augsburg Confession": key text

Luther continued to develop his eucharistic theology  
Believed in Christ's real presence in the consecrated elements  
But he defined this presence in a different way

“Con-substantiation”: substance of Christ’s body & blood present with substance of bread & wine

As opposed to transubstantiation

Christ’s presence in eucharist remains only for duration of liturgy

Lutheran churches would have no tabernacle

Rejected notion of eucharist as sacrifice offered to God

Lutheran ministers not called priests: but retained bishops

Luther died Feb. 18, 1546

### The Reformed Tradition: Switzerland

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)

Born in 1484 in Swiss village (2 months after Luther)

Ordained as a priest in 1506: pastor of parish in Glarus (1506-16)

1518-1531: People’s Preacher at Old Munster in Zurich

Reached reforming conclusions similar to Luther: independent

Attacked pilgrimages, indulgences, superstition, papal power

Questioned laws of fast & abstinence (sausage incident in Lent)

He attacked law of priestly celibacy: eventually married in 1524

Zurich city council backed Zwingli: broke with local bishop

1525: Mass was suppressed, images removed from churches

1529: Marburg Colloquy

Attempt to unite German and Swiss Protestants against Charles V

Luther, Zwingli, and other reformers met

Agreement on most issues except nature of the eucharist

Luther: “We are not of the same spirit”

Different understandings of relationship of matter and spirit

Swiss Reform more Platonic: matter unable to mediate spiritual

Lutheran reform more “Catholic” and “sacramental”

Some Swiss cities followed Zwingli; others stayed Catholic

1531: Catholic cities allied with Charles V and attacked Zurich

Zwingli led troops into battle: Zurich was defeated and he died

Peace of Kappel: each canton free to choose its religious affiliation

John Calvin (1509-1564)

1509: Born in Noyon, France

Studied at U. of Paris: Scholasticism

But he was intrigued by ideas of Wycliffe, Hus, and Luther

His father took him out of theology, sent him to study law

Calvin never tells us exactly how he came to his break with Rome

1535: King Francis I starts to crack down on Protestants in France

Calvin fled to Swiss city of Basel: took up scholarly pursuits

*The Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536)

Systematic exposition of Reform theology: quickly sold out

4 vol: God & revelation, Redeemer, grace & Spirit, sacraments & order

Profound knowledge of Bible, early Fathers (especially Augustine)

Calvin: the Reformer of Geneva

He was a scholar and writer at heart: no desire to lead Reformation

1536: William Farel convinced Calvin to lead reform in Geneva

He produced a French reformed liturgy, translation of Psalms

Prepared series of “Ecclesiastical Ordinances”: church government

Four offices: pastors, teachers (doctors), elders, deacons

From his reading of NT: board of lay elders (presbyters)

Leadership of regions shared: pastors & elders (no bishops)  
Enforced morality: weapon of excommunication  
No dancing, gambling, drinking: later known as “puritan” (England)

1559: Calvin opened the Geneva Academy  
Geneva youth were trained in Calvinism  
Attracted students from all over Europe: became reform leaders  
French Huguenots, Dutch Reformed, Scottish Presbyterian  
Calvin died in 1564

The theology of John Calvin: Calvinism  
Strong emphasis on God’s majesty and transcendence  
Harsh critique of idolatry and sacred images: “Papists”  
Original sin: radical corruption of intellect and will  
Calvin agreed with Luther on justification by faith alone  
But emphasized ongoing sanctification: show fruits (Puritans)  
Predestination: became the mark of Calvinism  
God has eternally elected some to salvation, others to damnation  
Elect cannot be certain of their salvation: but can look for signs  
Sacraments: he took mediating position between Luther & Zwingli  
Attributed some “efficaciousness” to sacraments  
He struggled to defend Scriptural basis for infant baptism

### The Anabaptists

More radical wing of the Reformation (began circa 1525)  
They felt that Luther and Zwingli didn’t go far enough  
Emphasized contrast between church and state  
Infant baptism confuses this distinction  
Need for personal decision stands at heart of the Christian faith  
Zurich as early center of Anabaptism  
Zwingli refused to reject infant baptism  
Jan. 21, 1525: former priest George Blaurock had himself “re-baptized” in fountain in Zurich  
Thus came to be called “anabaptists” by their enemies  
Later they would insist on full immersion: like in the NT

Anabaptists held pacifist views: Sermon on the Mount  
Thus they were seen as radical and subversive by both Protestants and Catholics: severe persecution  
Movement attracted radicals and the hopes of peasants  
In 1535 radical Anabaptists took over city of Munster  
Wild visions and prophecies: expectation of New Jerusalem  
This uprising was soon crushed by local bishop & troops  
Munster revolution brought Anabaptism into disrepute

Menno Simons (1496-1561)  
Former Dutch priest: he joined Anabaptists in 1536  
Reorganized Anabaptism after the tragedy of Munster  
Emphasis on believers’ baptism, congregational system, rejection of participation in government and war  
They soon became known as Mennonites

### English Reformation: More Political

#### Background

1501: Henry VII’s son Arthur married Catherine of Aragon  
Catherine was daughter of Ferdinand & Isabella, aunt of Emperor Charles V  
Arthur died 4 months after their wedding

Henry VII sought to marry his younger son, Henry, to Catherine  
He was able to obtain dispensation from Pope Julius II  
Henry VIII became king in 1509: married Catherine of Aragon  
Unhappy marriage: unable to produce a male heir  
Mary Tudor (later “Bloody Mary”) was their only child

Henry VIII (1491-1547)

Henry sought annulment from Rome; to free him to marry  
Concern for male heir, and he was in love with Anne Boleyn  
But Catherine was aunt of HRE Charles V (Hapsburg)  
Charles pressured Pope Clement VII not to annul marriage  
Henry VIII as “Defender of the Faith”  
Henry was religiously conservative initially: traditional faith  
Befriended Sir Thomas More, who became his religious advisor  
1521: More helped him write “Defense of the Seven Sacraments” in response to Luther’s “Babylonian Captivity”  
Pope Leo X gave Henry the title “Defender of the Faith”  
Henry appointed More as his Lord Chancellor (1529-1532)

Henry takes steps to become head of church in England

Forces pope to name Thomas Cranmer archbishop of Canterbury  
Cranmer envisioned reformation of English church under king  
1534: Act of Supremacy – king supreme head of Church in England  
Thomas More refused to swear loyalty to king as head of church: executed  
Cranmer declared Henry’s marriage to Catherine null  
Henry married Anne Boleyn: she was crowned as queen  
But she bore him no sons: only a daughter (Elizabeth, in 1533)  
1537: Henry suppressed the great English monasteries  
Their land and wealth went to the crown: much needed

1547: Henry was succeeded by his only son, Edward VI (1547-53)

He was young and sickly: left room for work of reformers  
Cranmer took active role in reforming English Church  
Cup restored to laity, clergy allowed to marry, images withdrawn  
The Book of Common Prayer (by Cranmer)  
1549 (1<sup>st</sup> edition): Latin Mass abolished, first English liturgy  
Modeled on new Lutheran services  
Sacrificial language about eucharist suppressed: altar called table  
“The body of our Lord which was given for thee...”  
1552 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), incorporated Cranmer’s Zwinglian leanings  
“Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving”  
Yet retained kneeling at reception, minister still called priest

“Bloody” Mary Tudor (1553-1558)

She was only child of Henry’s 1<sup>st</sup> marriage (Catherine of Aragon)  
Grew up with a fanatical attachment to Rome: legitimacy  
Took the throne at age 37: committed to restoring Catholicism  
1554: she married Charles V’s son Philip II of Spain  
England officially returned to obedience to the pope  
Reforms of Henry & Edward’s reigns undone: reformers fled  
Open persecution of Protestant leaders: “Bloody Mary”  
Cranmer was burned at the stake in 1556  
Mary died childless in 1558: succession went to half-sister Elizabeth

Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

Her religious convictions were elusive

Protestant out of necessity: papacy had ruled her as illegitimate

Yet she desired a moderate consensus: neither Roman nor Calvinist

Reform leaders return to England: bring Calvinist influence

New edition of Book of Common Prayer: theological inclusivism

“The body of our Lord which was given for thee. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving”

1562: The Thirty-Nine Articles

Promulgated as doctrinal foundation for Church of England

“Via media” between Roman Catholic and Calvinist Reform

She sent military aid to Protestant rebels elsewhere

Turned more decisively against English Catholics

Many plotted her demise: backed Mary Queen of Scots

Her support of Protestant rebellion in Netherlands against Spain

1588: Philip II sent great Spanish armada to invade England

Miraculous defeat of Spanish Armada by the English

### Catholic Reform & Counter-Reformation

16<sup>th</sup> century Catholic reform movements: Spain as center

Spanish Inquisition

1492: Ferdinand & Isabella complete *Reconquista* of Spain

Jews & Muslims must convert to Christianity or leave

Pope gives monarchy control over inquisition in Spain

“Testing” the faith of those Jews & Muslims who converted

Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556): founder of Jesuits (1540)

Born of noble family at Loyola (just south of Pyrenees)

Pursued military career in hope of attaining fame & glory

1521: wounded at battle of Pamplona

In constant pain he turned to reading life of Christ and saints

Profound conversion experience

Developed his *Spiritual Exercises* from this experience

1524-34: resolved to study in order “to help souls” (at U. of Paris)

1540: he and six friends (Francis Xavier) founded Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

Poverty, chastity, obedience to Pope

Became important in foreign missions (Americas, Far East)

Catholic Counter-Reformation: the offensive against Protestantism

Jesuits as powerful weapon in hands of reformed papacy after Council of Trent

Brought whole areas of Germany & Poland back to Rome: focus on education

Teresa of Avila (1515-82): founder of Discalced Carmelites

With John of the Cross (1542-91)

1515: Teresa was born in Avila (hills of Castile)

Grandfather was a converted Jew (*converso*) who fled Inquisition

She entered Carmelite monastery in 1535: lived rather lax life

1555: experienced series of visions, converted to life of perfection

She felt called to found more rigorous Carmelite convents in Spain

They wore sandals instead of shoes: Discalced (“barefoot”)

Her classic spiritual writing: *The Interior Castle*

1570: she helped John of the Cross found male Discalced Carmelites

He suffered much persecution from bishops and other Carmelites

Spiritual classics: *Ascent of Mount Carmel* and *Dark Night of the Soul*

## Counter-Reformation: Council of Trent (1545-63)

Since Constance (1414-17): Popes afraid to call Councils

HRE Charles V pushed popes to deal with rising religious division

Pope Paul III (1534-49): saw need for reform

1542: he established the Roman Inquisition (later Holy Office)

Focused on calling an ecumenical council to respond to Protestantism

Council of Trent opened in 1545: the 19<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical

Almost 30 years after Luther's "95 Theses"

First Period (1545-1548): less than 100 bishops present

HRE Charles V wanted to focus on institutional reforms

Papacy wanted to focus on clarifying doctrine against Protestants

Compromise: alternation of doctrine and practical reforms

Scripture and Tradition as dual channels of God's revelation

Authority of the Vulgate text of the Bible

Decrees on Original Sin and Justification

Careful handling of relationship between faith and works

Christ's institution of seven sacraments was reasserted

Various reform decrees: laws against absenteeism and pluralism

1548-51: Council was suspended due to outbreak of typhus in Trent

Second Period (1551-52): more bishops present

Important decree on the Eucharist: Transubstantiation re-affirmed

Veneration and adoration of the blessed sacrament affirmed

Decrees on the Sacraments of Penance and Extreme Unction

Council suspended 1552: revolt of Protestant princes in Germany

Austere Pope Paul IV (1555-59) refused to re-convoke council during his reign

1556: HRE Charles V retired as emperor (died in 1558)

Charles' brother Ferdinand elected as HRE: tolerant of Protestants

They expanded even into Austria: later 30 Years War (1618-48)

Third Period (1562-63)

Bishops did much to reform themselves: but not reform of papacy and curia

Communion under bread alone for laity re-affirmed

Decree on the mass as a true sacrifice

Decrees on marriage and holy orders as true sacraments

Reform decrees on establishment of seminaries

Purgatory, invocation of saints, sacred images, indulgences

After Trent

Slow process of interpretation and implementation of decrees

Roman Catechism was promulgated (1566): Peter Canisius

Roman Missal (1570): Official prayers of the Church (sacraments, rituals)

"Index of Forbidden Books" created