

Response to the Protestant Reformation

Instructor: Deacon Jason Stewart

Preparatory readings:

As a student you are welcome to read more of the following works than what is recommended here. The goal is to manageably set before you the Protestant Reformers' actual arguments without being buried in long texts (and the writings of the Reformers tend to be very long). If you are curious for more, feel free to search inside the selections using Ctrl+F (or Cmd+F on Mac) to look for key words like "works," "justification by faith," "merit," "sufficiency," etc. The selections below are all standard, influential Reformation documents.

[Martin Luther's 95 Theses](#) - Particularly Theses 1–7, 21–29, 35–37, 43, 50, 62, 82, 86, and 94–95 - repentance, papal authority, purgatory, indulgence abuse, works of mercy, the real "treasure of the Church."

[Martin Luther - On the Freedom of a Christian](#) - One of the clearest short statements of Luther's view of faith and works. Focus specifically on the opening paragraphs and the closing sections.

[The Augsburg Confession](#) - Articles IV, V, VII, X, and XXIV. One of the best single documents for seeing how the early Lutheran movement defined itself.

[Ulrich Zwingli - The 67 Articles](#) - Read the introduction and the early articles, note especially the claims that the Gospel stands on its own, Christ is the only way to salvation, and Scripture is the standard by which doctrine must be tested.

[John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion](#) - Book 1, Chapter 1 and 8 - a clear entry point into Calvin's theological method.