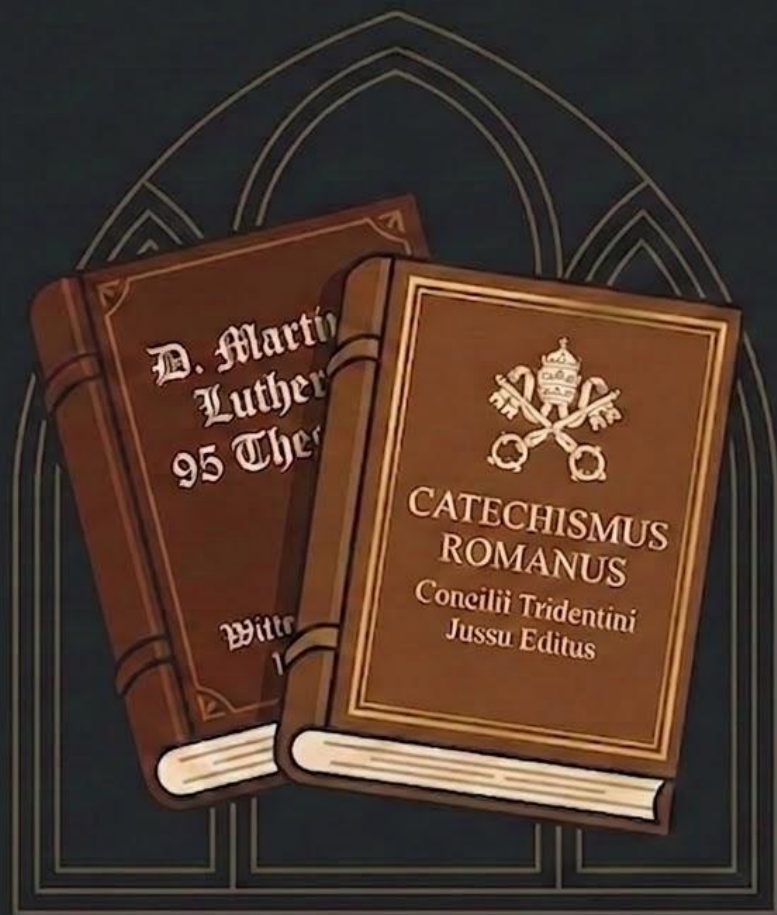


# RESPONSE TO THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

A Theological and  
Historical Overview

Deacon Jason Stewart  
Ministry Formation



# THE REFORMATION

A Complex Era of Dissent & Division



- An era of intense spiritual and ecclesiastical change beginning in the early 16th century.
- While starting with legitimate critiques of abuse, it resulted in profound divisions in Western Christendom.
- Focus for the Church was responding to theological challenges while addressing internal corruption (the *Protestant split*).

# THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION

Internal Renewal and Theological Affirmation

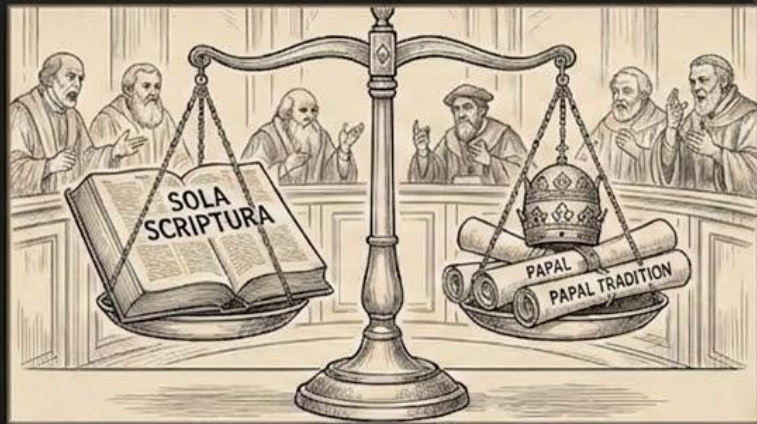


- The Church's comprehensive internal renewal and response to the split.
- Formally defined at the Council of Trent (1545-1563): Clarifying doctrine (Scripture, Tradition, Sacraments) and reforming discipline.
- Birth of new spiritual movements and religious orders (e.g., Jesuits, Carmelites) to revitalize Catholic life.

# THE REFORMATION: MORE THAN A THEOLOGICAL DISPUTE

## A CRISIS OF THEOLOGICAL AUTHORITY

CHALLENGING THE BASIS OF CHURCH TRADITION AND POWER



- Rejected Papal Supremacy and the binding nature of Church Councils.
- Asserted individual interpretation of Scripture (Priesthood of all Believers).
- Fundamentally questioned the hierarchical structure and ultimate earthly authority.

## A CRISIS OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

WESTERN CHRISTENDOM SPLINTERS INTO COMPETING DENOMINATIONS



- The loss of a single, unified visible Church in the West.
- Formation of multiple national and doctrinal denominations (Protestant & Reformed).
- Internal dissent within Protestantism led to further divisions (e.g., Anabaptists).

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 1: THE CHURCH BEFORE LUTHER

### A MILLENNIUM OF FAITH & POWER

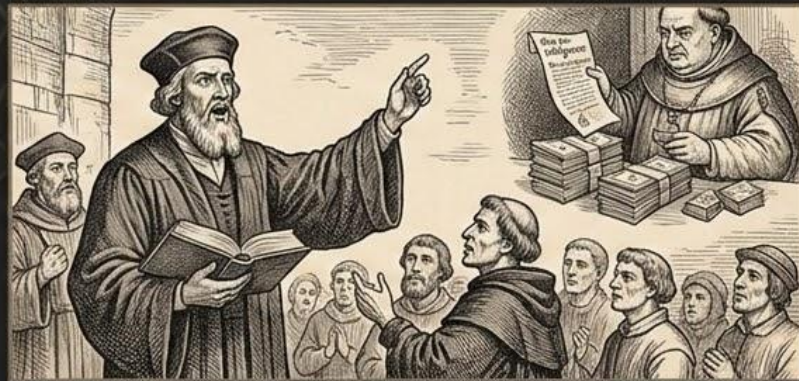
THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE



- Deeply embedded in the fabric of European society for centuries.
- Unified spiritual authority throughout Western Christendom.
- Influential in politics, law, and education (monasteries and universities).

### CRACKS IN THE FOUNDATION

INTERNAL TENSION & CALLS FOR REFORM



- Internal tension between spiritual ideals and worldly power.
- Increasing instances of clerical corruption (e.g., simony, nepotism, pluralism).
- Emergence of early reform movements (e.g., Wycliffe, Hus) questioning specific practices, paving the way for Luther.

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 1: THE CHURCH BEFORE LUTHER

### LATE MEDIEVAL PROBLEMS: CRISES IN FAITH & ORDER

#### CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP: CLERICAL ABUSES



- Internal tension between spiritual ideals and worldly power.
- Increasing instances of clerical corruption (e.g., simony, nepotism, pluralism).
- Deepening of systemic problems within the Church hierarchy.

#### CRISIS OF UNDERSTANDING: CONFUSION IN PREACHING & THE FAITHFUL'S DISSATISFACTION



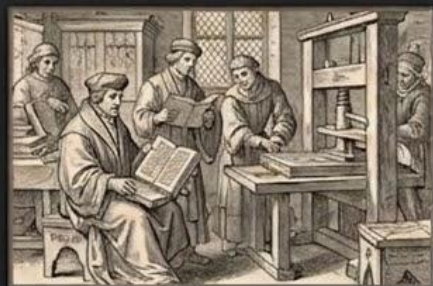
- Inconsistent doctrinal messages leading to spiritual confusion for the laity.
- Proliferation of unofficial, often conflicting interpretations of scripture.
- Growing sense of disillusionment and dissatisfaction among the faithful.

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 1: THE CHURCH BEFORE LUTHER

### CATHOLIC REFORM MOVEMENTS: INTERNAL RENEWAL

#### 1. Christian Humanism



- **CRITICISM:** Scholastic dry intellectualism; focus on precise textual study.
- **GOAL:** Intellectual renewal through return to sources; a simpler, text-based faith.
- **IMPACT:** Biblical editions; popularized 'philosophy of Christ'.

#### 2. Spiritual Renewal (Devotio Moderna)



- **CRITICISM:** Ritualistic, dry piety; lack of interior spiritual life.
- **GOAL:** Personal devotion and imitation of Christ (e.g., Kempis); active charity.
- **IMPACT:** Growth of interior spirituality among the faithful.

#### 3. Revitalization of Religious Orders



- **CRITICISM:** Strict discipline decline and corruption in older monastic life.
- **GOAL:** Return to original rigorous rules, education, and practical service.
- **IMPACT:** Created foundations for new, effective orders like Jesuits.

#### 4. The Papal Reformers




- **CRITICISM:** Wide-spread systemic corruption (e.g., simony) across Church.
- **GOAL:** Comprehensive reform plans to unite existing movements under Papal authority.
- **IMPACT:** Identified the scope of needed changes (the Consilium report).

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

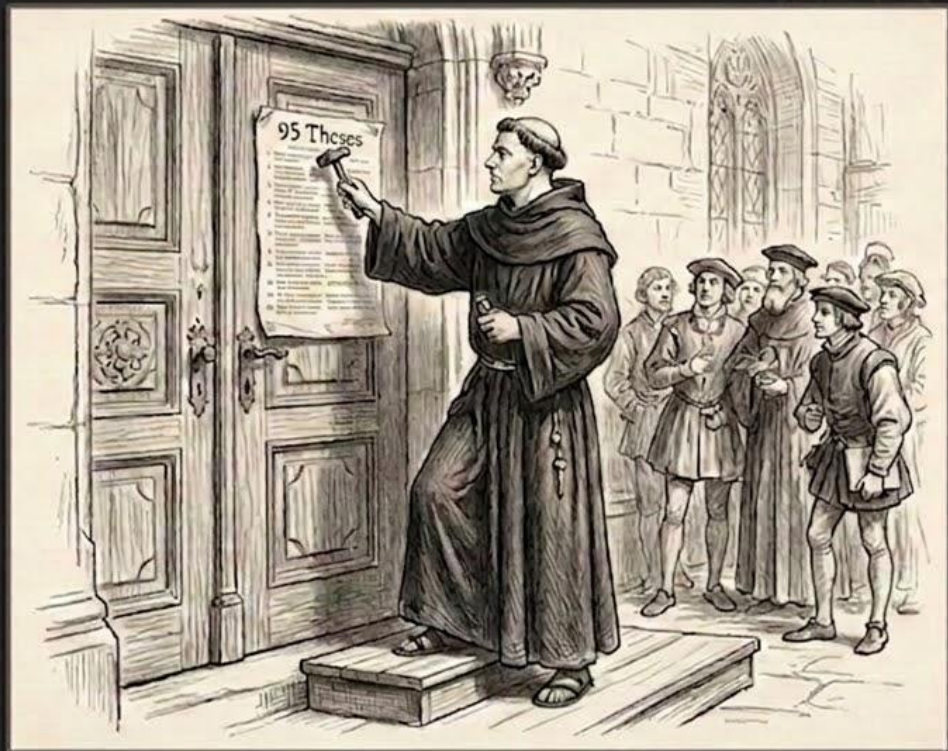
## SECTION 1: THE CHURCH BEFORE LUTHER

### PRE-LUTHERAN REFORM MOVEMENTS: SEEDS OF CHANGE

MOVEMENT / FIGURE	PERIOD	CORE CRITICISM	IMPACT / OUTCOME
 <p>Wycliffe &amp; the Lollards</p>	(approx. 14th C.)	CRITICISM: Clerical corruption, Papal authority; translated Bible to English.	OUTCOME: Wycliffites repressed; influenced later Lollardy.
 <p>Jan Hus &amp; the Hussites</p>	(early 15th C.)	CRITICISM: Church worldliness; clerical corruption. Promoted vernacular.	OUTCOME: Hus burned at stake; sparked Hussite Wars in Bohemia.

# THE REFORMATION

## SECTION 2: THE REFORMATION BREAKS

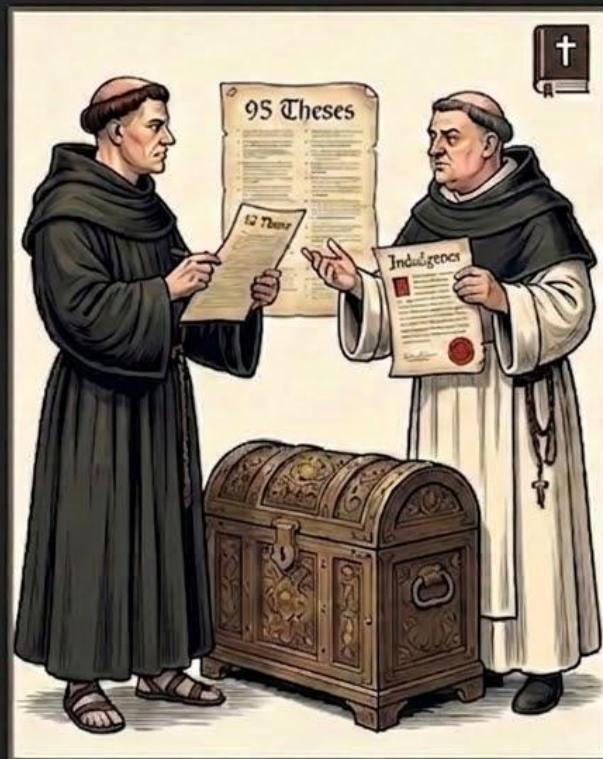


- **DATE:** October 31, 1517 (All Hallows' Eve)
- **LOCATION:** All Saints' Church Door, Wittenberg, Germany
- **ACTION:** Publicly posted ninety-five propositions for academic debate.
- **FOCUS:** Critique of the sale of indulgences and Papal authority.
- **IMPACT:** The seminal act that launched the Protestant Reformation.

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 2: THE REFORMATION BREAKS

### BREAKDOWN: THE INDULGENCE CONTROVERSY



#### ISSUE / ABUSE

- **Perceived Indulgence Sale:** The faithful could contribute alms toward good works, including major Church projects like basilicas, hospitals, and crusades.
- **The Market Slogan:** Promoted with deceptive marketing like Johann Tetzel's jingle, suggesting money buys immediate release from Purgatory.

#### LUTHER'S CRITIQUE (The 95 Theses)

- **Challenged Efficacy:** Questioned the theological and scriptural basis for papal authority over salvation and the state of the dead.
- **Argued Real Repentance:** Asserted that true Christian repentance requires inner contrition and a changed life, not a monetary transaction.

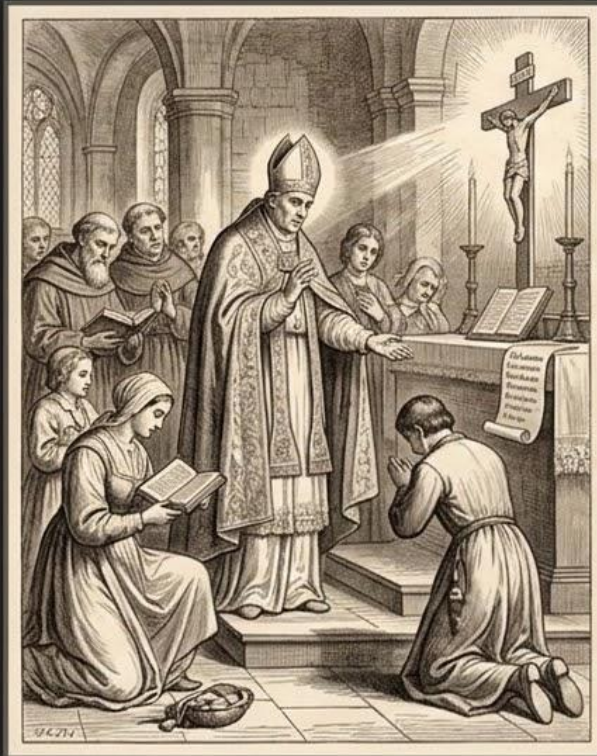
#### THEOLOGICAL IMPACT / OUTCOME

- **Redefined Salvation:** Refocused attention on justification by faith alone (*Sola Fide*), shifting the focus from human works and merit to God's free grace.
- **Catalyzed Debate:** Ignited the broader Reformation by prioritizing Biblical authority and challenging centralized Church control, especially regarding Papal finances and doctrine.

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 2: THE REFORMATION BREAKS

### CATHOLIC RESPONSE: THE TRUE TEACHING ON INDULGENCES



#### ♥ DEFINITION & SPIRITUAL BASIS

- **Remission of Punishment:** Not forgiveness for the sin itself, but a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven.
- **Treasury of Merit:** Drawn from the Church's superabundant spiritual treasury, which consists of the infinite merits of Christ and the merits of the Virgin Mary and the saints.

#### ✝ PROPER PURPOSE & GOOD WORKS

- **Aim for Conversion:** Intended to foster sincere repentance, conversion of heart, and spiritual growth.
- **Tied to Virtue:** Gained through specific spiritual and charitable acts: prayer, fasting, almsgiving, pilgrimages, all performed in a state of grace.
- **Communal Impact:** Connects individual spiritual progress with the entire body of Christ (the Church).

#### REQUIREMENTS & CORRECTION

- **Internal Contrition:** A sincere detachment from all sin is the indispensable condition for any indulgence.
- **Sacramental Connection:** Must be accompanied by sacramental Confession and Holy Communion.
- **Forbidden Abuses:** The Council of Trent explicitly condemned the sale of indulgences for monetary gain as a corruption of this spiritual practice.

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 2: THE REFORMATION BREAKS

### CORE THEOLOGICAL DISPUTES OF THE REFORMATION



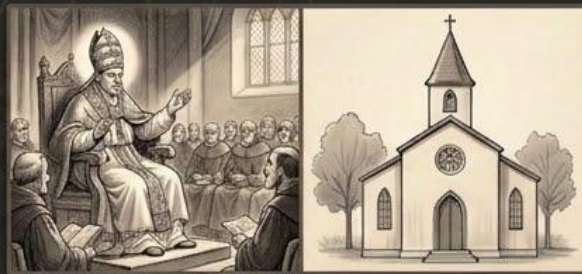
#### JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE (*Sola Fide*)



- Conflict: How is salvation received?
- Catholic View: Cooperation between free will, grace, and works (infused justification).
- Protestant View: A free gift of divine grace, appropriated by faith alone (forensic justification).



#### CHURCH AUTHORITY



- Conflict: Who holds ultimate teaching authority?
- Catholic View: The dynamic interaction of Scripture, Tradition, and the teaching office (Magisterium) of the Church.
- Protestant View: Ultimate authority rests only in the written Word for Word (Scripture), interpreting all Tradition and church teachings.



#### ROLE OF SCRIPTURE (*Sola Scriptura*)



- Catholic View: Scripture and living Tradition are distinct but inseparable parts of the single deposit of faith.
- Protestant View: Scripture is the final, unchangeable, and sufficient authority for all Christian doctrine.

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

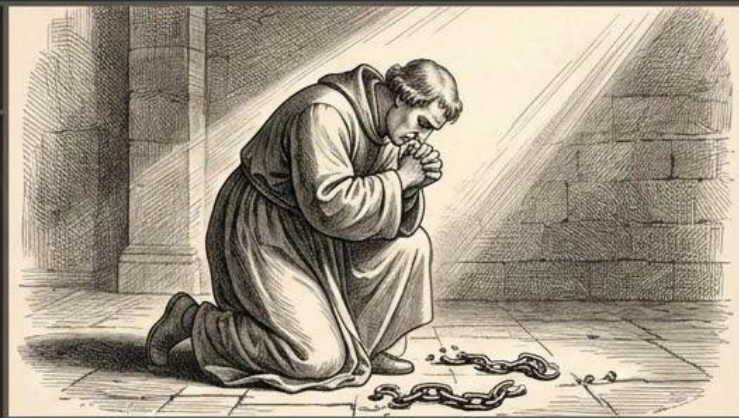
## SECTION 2: THE REFORMATION BREAKS

### MARTIN LUTHER: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE (*Sola Fide*)



#### SOLA FIDE: DEFINITION & BIBLICAL BASIS

- **Forensic Justification:** A precise, legal declaration of righteousness before God, external to man. Man is declared right, not made perfectly holy.
- **Simul iustus et Peccator:** Luther's concept: believers are "Simultaneously Saint and Sinner" (righteous in Christ, yet still battling sin).
- **Appropriation:** Salvation is appropriated solely by trust in the Gospel promise, completely distinct from any merit or human cooperation.
- **Rooted in Scripture:** Grounded particularly in Romans and Galatians (e.g., Romans 1:17, 3:28).



#### IMPLICATIONS FOR GOOD WORKS

- **Fruit of Faith:** Good works are the inevitable and necessary *fruit* of true faith. Faith that is real will show itself in love and service.
- **Worthy but not Meritorious:** Good works are worthy and important, but they *do not* contribute to justification or earn salvation.

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 2: THE REFORMATION BREAKS

### MARTIN LUTHER: 'SIMUL IUSTUS ET PECCATOR' (*Simultaneously Saint & Sinner*)

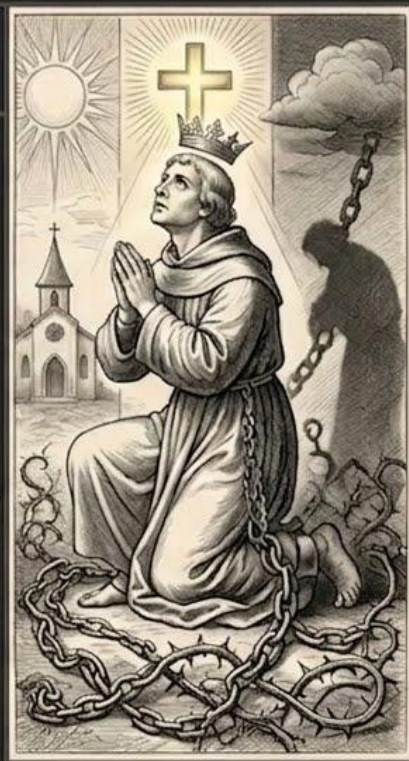


#### SIMUL IUSTUS ET PECCATOR: CORE CONCEPT DEFINITION

- **Simultaneously Just and Sinner:** The believer is, at the same moment, fully declared righteous by God (*simul iustus*) through faith in Christ's work, yet still battle with inherent sin and a fallen nature (*et peccator*).
- **A Theological Tension:** A core principle highlighting the passive righteousness received through justification (what God declares), while acknowledging the active, persistent sin that remains (what the believer is practically).
- **Passive vs. Active Righteousness:** The 'just' status is forensic and imputed, not inherent or created. The believer is declared righteous, not made immediately perfect.
- **Internal Conflict:** This dichotomy explains the ongoing spiritual battle in the Christian life (e.g., Romans 7:15-25: "I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.").
- **Humility and Hope:** Prevents self-righteousness by acknowledging constant dependency on Christ, while providing assurance that salvation is secure despite struggle.

#### KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE DUAL STATE

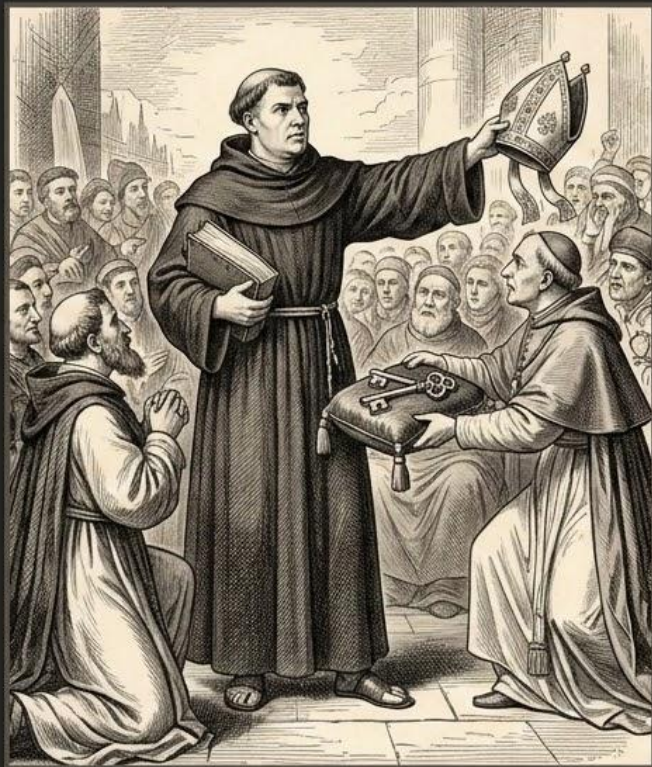
- **Perfect Standing:** The believer's forensic state is perfect and complete in God's eyes, based only on Christ's righteousness.
- **Ongoing Journey:** Practically, the believer is on a journey of sanctification, battling sin and growing in grace.
- **Constant Repentance:** Reinforces the need for regular repentance and continual reliance on the sacraments and word of God.
- **Assurance:** True comfort comes not from self-improve, but from Christ's finished work, providing peace even amidst struggles.



# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 2: THE REFORMATION BREAKS

### MARTIN LUTHER'S REJECTION OF CATHOLIC CHURCH AUTHORITY



#### THE BIBLE OVER PAPAL & COUNCIL AUTHORITY

- **CONFLICT:** Who holds ultimate teaching authority in matters of faith?
- **STANDARD:** *SOLA SCRIPTURA* (Scripture Alone). Scripture is the final, infallible authority, superseding the Pope and church councils.
- **DIET OF WORMS (1521):** Luther's pivotal defense before the Emperor, declaring he could not recant unless shown to be wrong by 'Scripture and plain reason.'
- **BREAK:** A fundamental rejection of institutional infallibility, shifting authority to the interpreted Word.

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 2: THE REFORMATION BREAKS

### MARTIN LUTHER: *SOLA SCRIPTURA* (Scripture Alone)



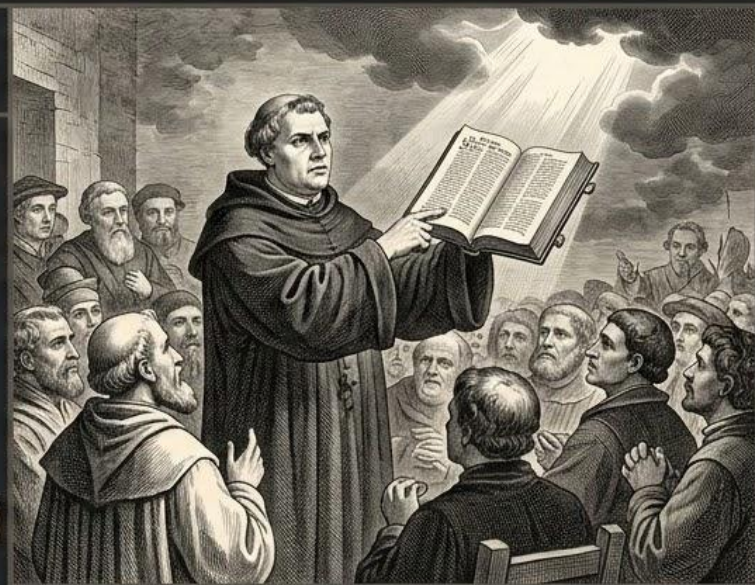
#### THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE (*SOLA SCRIPTURA*)

- **Ultimate Rule:** The Bible is the final, perfect authority on all matters of faith and practice, superseding church tradition and councils.
- **Infallible Guide:** The words of Scripture are the direct, revealed Word of God, without error in its teaching.



#### SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE (*PERSPICUITY*)

- **Self-Interpreting:** Difficult passages must be understood in the light of clearer ones (the Analogy of Faith).
- **Accessible to All:** The essential message of salvation is clear and understandable to the ordinary believer who reads with faith.



#### LUTHER'S DEFENSE AT THE DIET OF WORMS (1521)

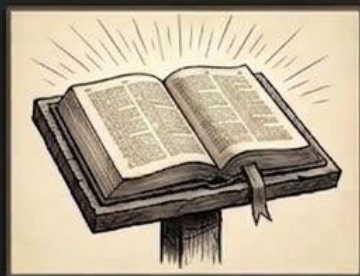
- Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason...

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 2: THE SOLAS

### PROTESTANT CAUSES: THE THEOLOGICAL RECOVERY

#### 1. SCRIPTURE ALONE (*Sola Scriptura*)



- CAUSE: Dependence on Human Tradition and Papal Decrees over Biblical Authority.
- GOAL: To establish Scripture as the final, unchanging authority in all matters of faith and practice.

#### 2. GRACE ALONE (*Sola Gratia*)



- CAUSE: The teaching that salvation must be earned through works or purchased (indulgences).
- GOAL: To restore the understanding of salvation as a free, unmerited gift of God's favor.

#### 3. FAITH ALONE (*Sola Fide*)



- CAUSE: A complex system of works and rituals required for justification before God.
- GOAL: To proclaim that justification is achieved solely through trust and belief in the gospel.

#### 4. CHRIST ALONE (*Solus Christus*)



- CAUSE: Multiple mediators (saints, priests, and the Pope) between God and man.
- GOAL: To affirm Christ as the only mediator and perfect sacrifice for sin.

#### 5. GLORY TO GOD ALONE (*Soli Deo Gloria*)

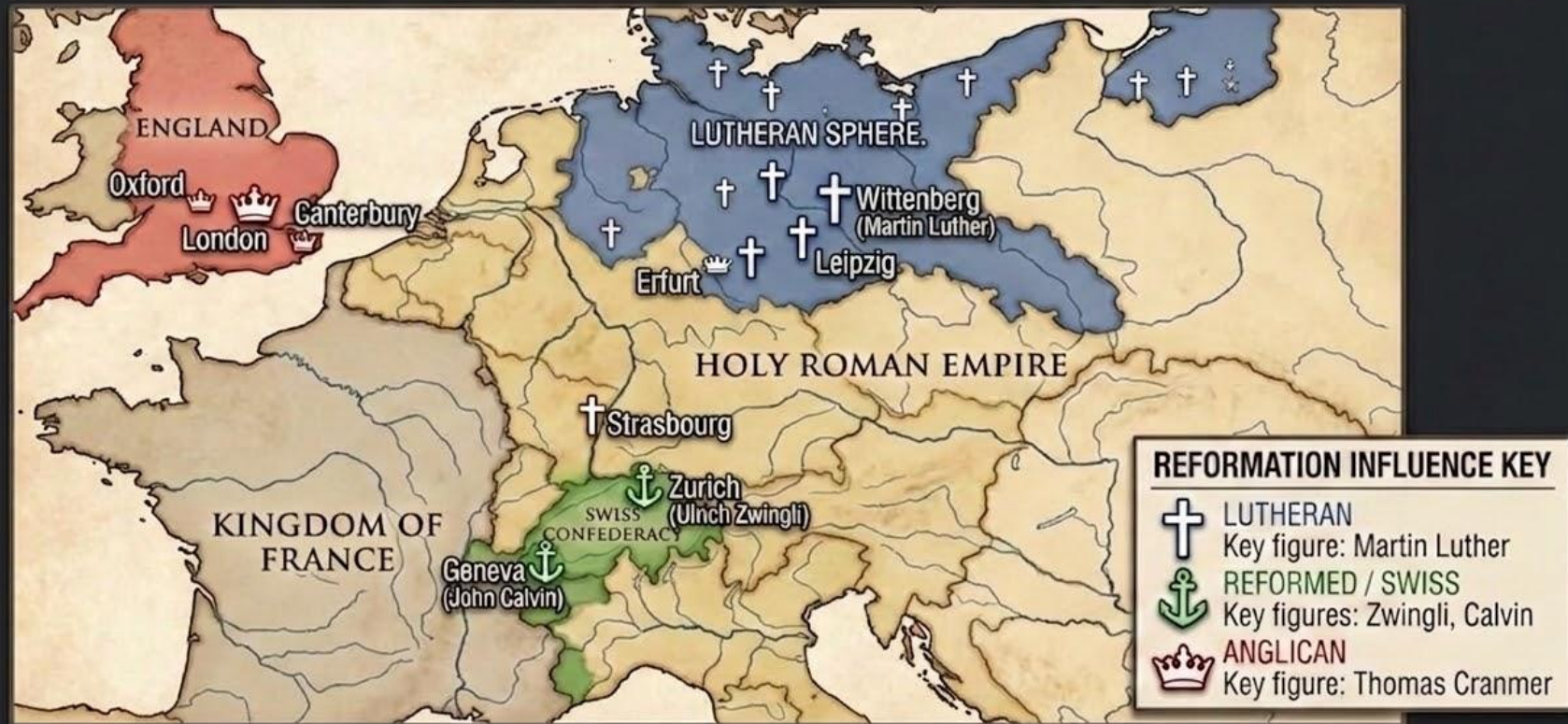


- CAUSE: Devotion and worship directed to institutions, icons, and human leaders.
- GOAL: To ensure that all honor and worship directed exclusively to the Divine.

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 3: REFORMER'S INFLUENCE

### THE REFORMERS' MINISTRIES

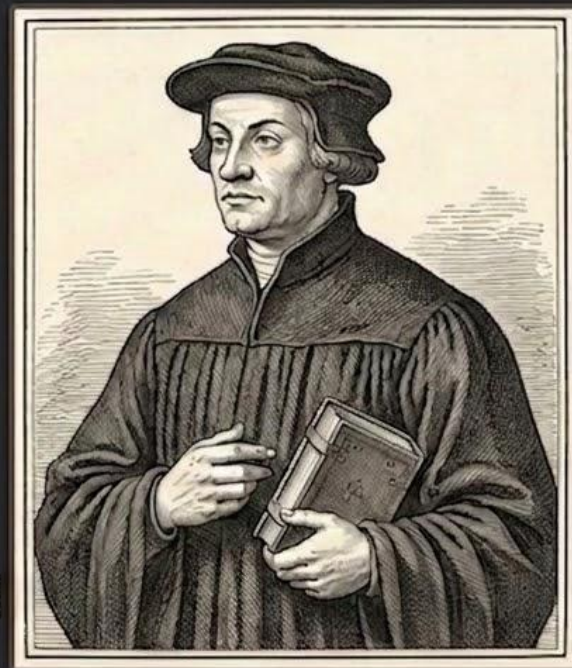


# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 3: PROTESTANT REFORMERS

### ULRICH ZWINGLI: THE SWISS REFORMER

- Leading reformer of Zurich, Switzerland. Contemporary of Martin Luther.
- Deeply influenced by Humanism and the works of Erasmus.
- **Strict Sola Scriptura:** Rejected anything not explicitly found in Scripture (leading to iconoclasm, removing organs, etc.).
- **Union of Church & State:** Promoted a theocratic form of government where the Church was integral to the state authority.
- **Lord's Supper Controversy (Contrast with Luther):** Maintained that Christ's body and blood are NOT physically present, only a symbolic memorial (Zwingli's view vs. Luther's view at the Marburg Colloquy, 1529).



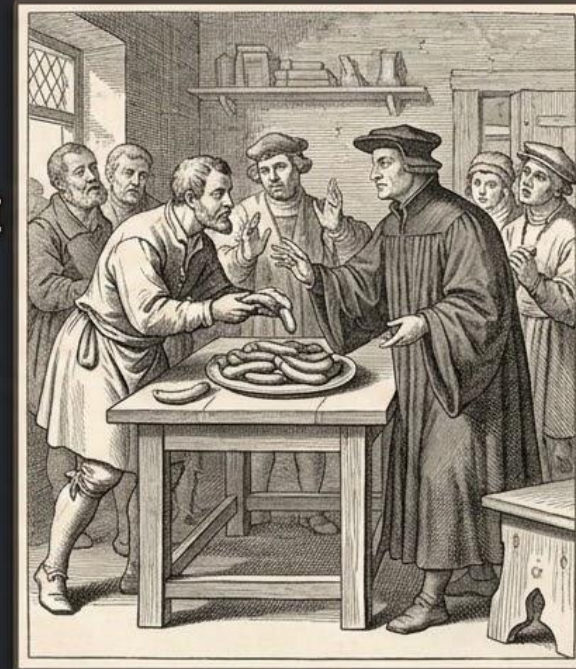
ULRICH ZWINGLI (1484-1531)

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 3: ZWINGLI'S ZURICH

### ULRICH ZWINGLI & "THE AFFAIR OF THE SAUSAGES" (1522)

- **Fast-Breaking Incident:** Defiant breaking of the established Lenten fast at Christoph Froschauer's printer's shop in Zurich. (March 1522).
- **Zwingli's Support:** Ulrich Zwingli was present at the incident and supported the action, though he did not personally consume the sausages.
- **"Regarding the Choice and Freedom of Foods":** In response to the controversy, Zwingli preached and published this sermon (April 1522), arguing for Christian liberty based on Scripture.
- **Impact on the Reformation:** The event catalyzed the Swiss Reformation. The Zurich City Council officially debated the issue and subsequently ended enforced fasting, asserting local authority over the church in Zurich.



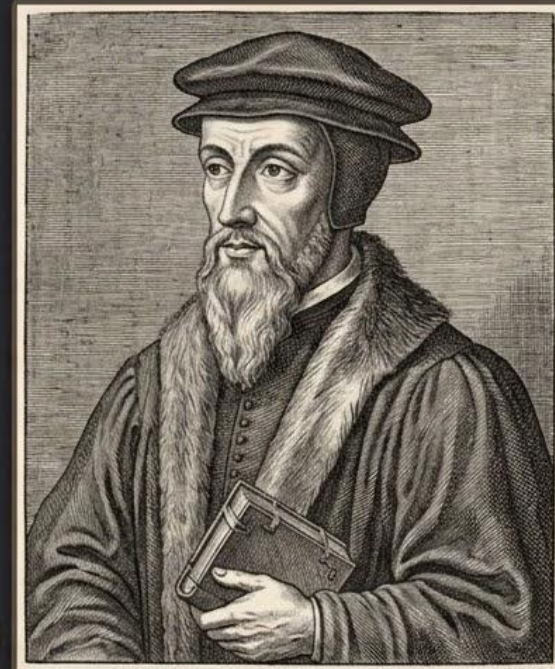
DEPICTION OF THE SAUSAGE INCIDENT (c. 1522)

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 3: CALVIN'S GENEVA

### JOHN CALVIN & THE REFORMATION OF GENEVA (1536-1564).

- **Arrival in Geneva (1536):** Initially visiting, Calvin was persuaded by William Farel to stay and organize the church. Though expelled in 1538, he returned in 1541 by popular demand to implement his reforms.
- **Ecclesiastical Ordinances (1541):** Adopted by the city council, this foundational document defined four church offices: Pastors (to preach), Teachers (to teach doctrine), Elders (to oversee discipline), and Deacons (to care for the poor).
- **The Consistory:** An ecclesiastical court composed of the city's elders and pastors, responsible for strictly enforcing church discipline, public morality, and orthodoxy.
- **Geneva as a Model "Holy City":** Under Calvin's influence, Geneva was transformed into a disciplined, strict, and theocratic-style community, often described as the "Protestant Rome."
- **International Impact:** The city became a refuge for persecuted Protestants from across Europe and a training ground; the Geneva Academy (est. 1559) educated future pastors, spreading Calvin's Reformed theology internationally (e.g, to France, Scotland, Netherlands).



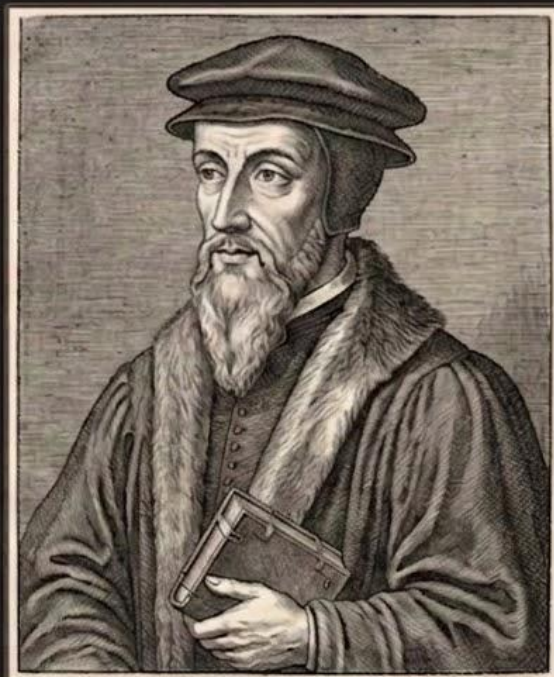
JOHN CALVIN (1509-1564), THEOLOGIAN AND REFORMER OF GENEVA.

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 3: CALVIN'S THEOLOGY

### JOHN CALVIN ON PREDESTINATION & DOUBLE PREDESTINATION

- **Concept of Predestination:** Calvin defined predestination as God's eternal decree, by which He compacts with Himself what He wills to become of each man.
- **Double Predestination Explained:** This involves two distinct decrees:
  - The Elect (chosen by God for salvation through grace alone).
  - The Reprobate (passed over by God and justly damned for their sin).
- **The Purpose:** The doctrine emphasizes God's absolute sovereignty and glory, not human reason, curiosity, or works. It is intended to produce humility, gratitude, and assurance in believers.
- **Mysterious and Awful Decree:** Calvin acknowledged it as a "horrible decree" (*decretum horribile*), a truth taught in Scripture that must be accepted, even if mysterious to human logic.



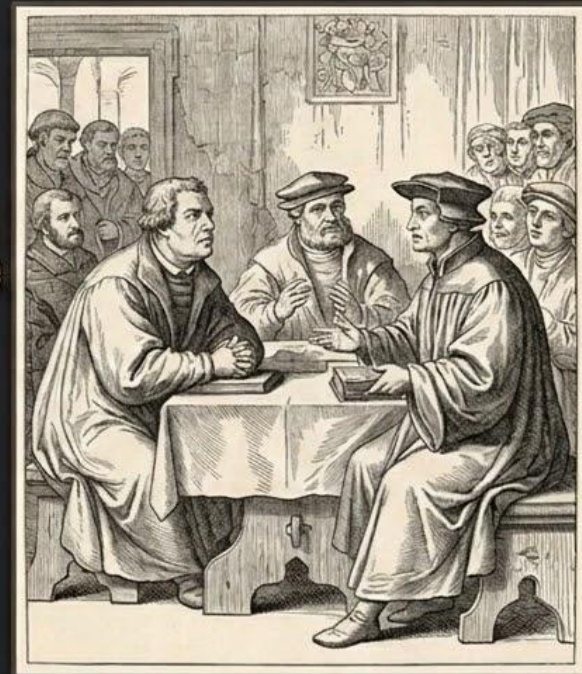
JOHN CALVIN (1509-1564), THEOLOGIAN AND REFORMER

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 4: REFORMER CONFLICT

### MARTIN LUTHER & ULRICH ZWINGLI: THE MARBURG COLLOQUY (1529)

- **Meeting of Minds:** Philip of Hesse convened a colloquy at Marburg Castle to unify the German (Luther) and Swiss (Zwingli) reform movements.
- **Substantial Agreement:** The reformers drafted the Marburg Articles, finding common ground and agreeing on 14 of the 15 doctrinal points (e.g., Trinity, justification).
- **The Irreconcilable Conflict (The Eucharist):** They deadlocked on Article 15. Luther insisted on Christ's physical *real presence*. Zwingli (as noted maintained a symbolic memorial view.
- **A House Divided:** The inability to resolve the Eucharistic controversy formalized the permanent fracture between the Lutheran and Reformed traditions.

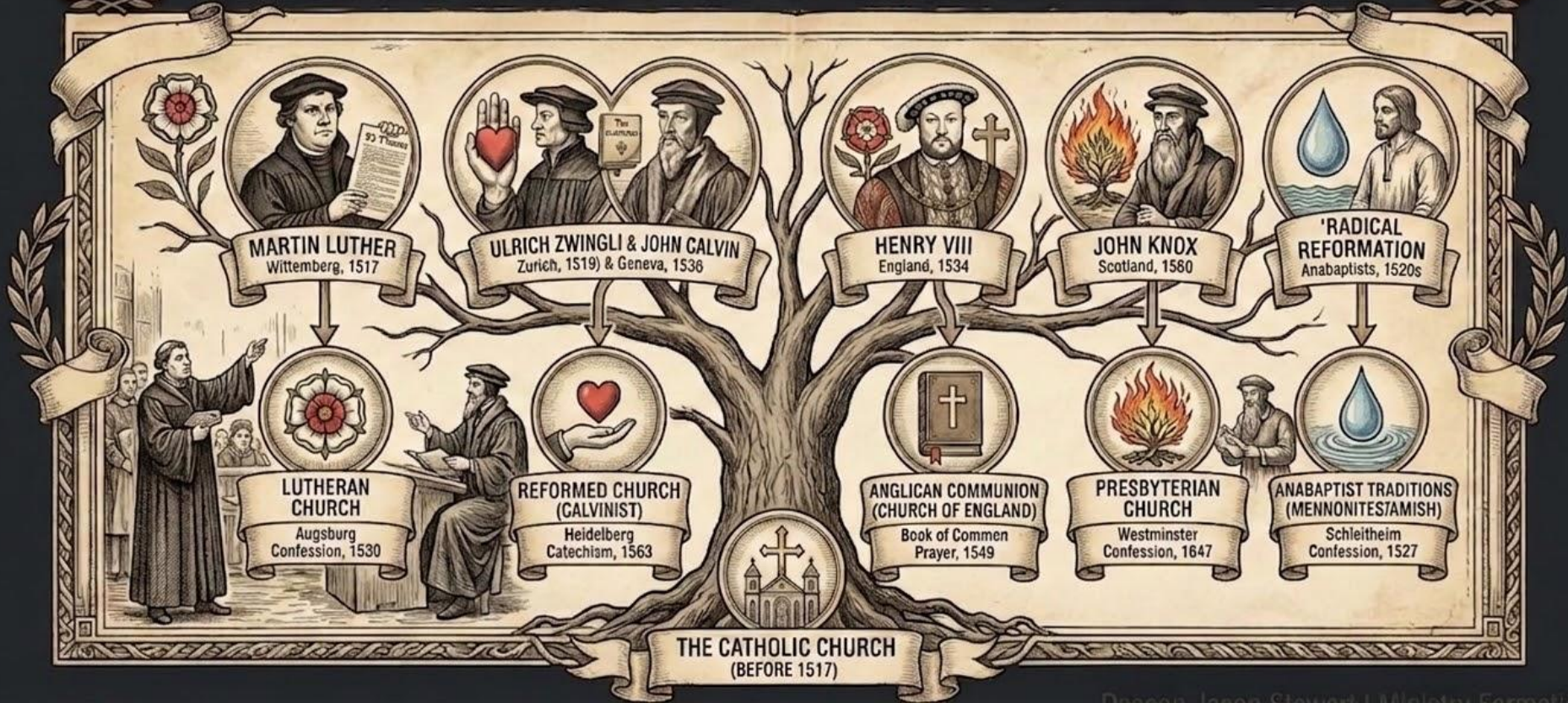


DEPICTION OF THE MARBURG COLLOQUY (1529)

# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 4: REFORM & REORDERING

# THE EMERGENCE OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES



# THE REFORMATION: A CONTEXT OF CHURCH HISTORY

## SECTION 5: THE CATHOLIC RESPONSE (COUNTER-REFORMATION)

### THE DECREE ON JUSTIFICATION (JANUARY 1547)

- The Defining Counter-Position: Rigorously defined Catholic doctrine against the core Protestant concept of *sola fide* (justification by faith alone), as articulated by Luther
- Necessity of Grace: Affirmed that human salvation is impossible without the prior, preventing grace of God (moving toward conversion). Humans cannot achieve justification through their own powers.
- Human Cooperation: Condemned the idea that human freedom is passive or extinct. Decreed that humans must freely assent to and cooperate with God's grace, preparing themselves for justification.
- Not Just Non-Imputation: Refuted the Protestant view that justification is merely the legal imputation of Christ's righteousness. Maintained that
- Faith is Essential, but insufficient: Teaching that 'faith without works is dead' (James 2:26). Maintained that while faith is a necessary condition for justification, it is not sufficient. Good works are necessary for justification.
- Meritorious Nature of Good Works: Affirmed that the good works of a justified person, performed through grace, are truly meritorious and increase the already received, leading to eternal life.



THE DECREE ON JUSTIFICATION  
(1547)

# THE COUNCIL OF TRENT (1545–1563) & TEACHINGS ON REFORMERS

- **Definitive Response:** The Church's comprehensive internal reform and formal doctrinal answer to the Protestant challenges.
- **Scripture and Tradition (Refuting *Sola Scriptura*):** Decreed that Catholic doctrine is derived from both Scripture and sacred Tradition, with equal authority. Rejected the Reformers'\* *Sola Scriptura* principle.
- **Justification (Refuting *Sola Fide*):** Condemned the core Protestant teaching of justification by faith alone. Affirmed that justification involves both grace *and* human cooperation, leading to good works.
- **Sacraments and Transubstantiation (Refuting Zwingli/Calvin):**
  - \* Affirmed seven sacraments as instituted by Christ.
  - \* Rigorously reaffirmed *Transubstantiation* (Christ's physical, real presence in the Eucharist), specifically refuting symbolic views (like Zwingli's, as discussed in)
- **Decrees on Abuses:** Mandated major practical reforms regarding clerical discipline, education (seminaries), and the sale of indulgences, addressing criticisms that launched the Reformation.

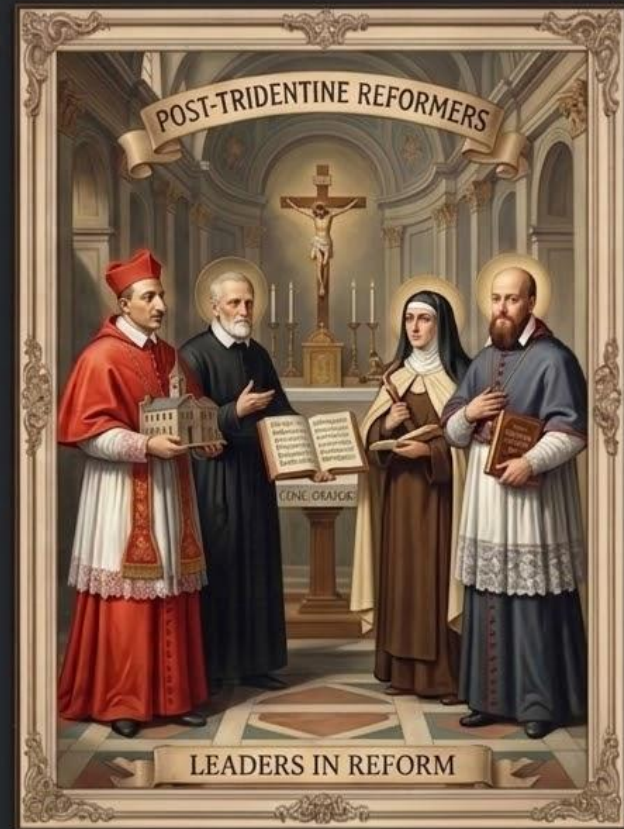


DEPICTION OF THE  
COUNCIL OF TRENT IN SESSION (1545–1563)

# POST-TRIDENTINE REFORMERS: LEADING THE CATHOLIC RENEWAL

## IMPLEMENTING THE COUNCIL OF TRENT'S MANDATES

- Key individuals and movements championed the Council of Trent's call for spiritual, educational, and institutional reform.
- St. Charles Borromeo: (Pastoral Discipline) Archbishop of Milan who rigorously implemented Trent's decrees; established seminaries, uniform catechisms, and pastoral visitations.
- St. Philip Neri: (Revitalization) Found the Congregation of the Oratory, using prayer, music, and cheerful community life to reform religious practice in Rome.
- St. Teresa of Avila & Discalced Carmelites: (Mystical Reform) Led a spiritual renewal within the Carmelite order, emphasizing poverty, cloister, and contemplative prayer.
- St. Francis de Sales: (Lay Spirituality) Promoted a gentle, accessible spirituality for lay people in works like "Introduction to the Devout Life" while combating Calvinism.



KEY FIGURES IMPLEMENTING THE  
CATHOLIC REFORM