

History of the Reformation

Zwingli and The Swiss Reformation

- Introduction
 - Martin Luther is clearly the most important Reformer
 - Reformation must not be equated with Luther
 - “Reformed Church” refers to Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin, not Luther
 - These form the two primary “Wings” of the Protestant Reformation
 - Third wing was formed by the Anabaptists
- Historical Context
 - The Reformation succeeded because biblical theology gained political support of the secular rulers
 - *cuius regio eius religio*
 - “he to whom the region belongs defines also the religion.”
 - 1519 – Charles of Spain chosen by German Electors to be German Emperor (not French king Francis)
 - Weak central power and strong regional power of German princes
 - Allowed regional princes to choose their own religious direction



- Europe in 1500
- Switzerland Geographically isolated
 - No regional rulers, but independent towns along with the surrounding countryside.
 - Swiss Confederation
 - 13 Cantons
 - Zurich, Bern, Basel
 - Geneva was more a part of French Savoy



- Zwingli & Luther
 - Common traits
 - Peasant stock, but well-to-do parents
 - Accomplish scholars, well educated
 - Extraordinary musical talent
 - Excellent preachers, preached in German
 - Differences
 - Luther – Educated in theories of Occam
 - Truths of revelation lie beyond reason
 - Revelation sometimes contradicts reason
 - More scholasticism in methodology
 - Zwingli – Educated in Thomism (Thomas Aquinas)
 - Revelation and Reason are harmonious
 - More indebted to Erasmus & his Renaissance Humanism
 - Renaissance Humanism
 - Scholasticism was the predominant method of learning during the Middle Ages
 - Thomas Aquinas, Anselm, Duns Scotus, . . .
 - Scholasticism
 - Reconciling ancient classical philosophers with medieval Christian theology
 - Not a philosophy or theology itself
 - Puts emphasis on dialectical reasoning
 - Purpose is to answer a question or resolve a contradiction.
 - Humanism –
 - study ancient texts in the original and appraise them through a combination of reasoning and empirical evidence
 - Go to the primary sources rather than the interpretations of others
 - *Ad fontes* – “to the sources”
 - Humanistic education – concentration on the study of liberal arts
 - Latin and Greek grammar, rhetoric, poetry, moral philosophy, ethics, history
 - Zwingli – great debt to Erasmus’s Humanism
 - Made his own personal copy of his New Testament
 - Taught himself Greek
 - Views on Peace, reliance on common sense reasoning, tendency toward anti-ritualistic thought, spirituality over ritual
 - Luther – emphasis on personal salvation
 - Struggle as a monk
 - Zwingli – emphasis on pastoral responsibilities
 - Concern for well-being of people
 - Luther – social conservative, sided with princes
 - Zwingli – Swiss patriot, importance of freedom of conscious
- Life of Zwingli
 - Huldrych Zwingli (1484 - 1531)
 - Born 7 weeks after Luther
 - Studies at Berne, Vienna, Basel
 - B.A. 1504 and M.A. 1506 – ordained as priest
 - Pastor at Glarus (1506-1516)
 - Issue of use of Swiss Mercenaries
 - Hapsburg, French, Pope
 - Zwingli went as chaplain



- 1515 – Pope lost to French
 - Glarus council switched to French
 - 1516 – Zwingli moves to Einsiedeln
 - Through study of Greek – major changes in theology
 - Reformation breakthrough
 - Not through “justification by faith”, but by Sola Scriptura
 - 1518 – appointed lay priest in Zurich
 - Began interpreting biblical scriptures in their context and continuity
 - Did not use the pericopic ordering
 - Preaching a moralistic message from a designated random text
 - Opposed the dominance of the Church year
 - Followed the Bible in its progress (consecutive exposition)
 - 1522 – began opposing the *Reislaufen* (Swiss as mercenaries)
 - Protest of the Sausage-meal during Lent
 - Zwingli preached about the problem of fasting
 - Christians are released from all human commands and ordinances
 - Law of fasting is a humanly, churchly ordinance
 - Developing a concept of the freedom of Man before God
 - “This abstaining I do not wish to condemn, if it occurs freely, to put the flesh under control. . . In a word, if you will fast, do so; if you do not wish to eat meat, eat it not; but leave Christians a free choice in the matter”
- Zwingli’s Theology develops applying “new thinking”
 - Celibacy of Priests
 - Married in 1522 secretly, then publically 1524
 - Faith and forgiveness
 - “But we said that it is by faith that sins are forgiven. By this we simply meant to affirm that it is faith alone which can give the assurance of forgiveness. Therefore it follows that who trust in Christ have the remission of sin. Now since none of us knows who believes, none of us knows whose sins are remitted except the one who by the illumination and power of grace enjoys the assurance of faith, knowing that through Christ God has forgiven him and having therefore the assurance of forgiveness. For he knows that God cannot deceive or lie and therefore he cannot doubt his grace to the sinner
 - Opposed Mary’s mediation of salvation
 - Mary filled with grace, not Mary who provides the fullness of her grace
 - Lord’s Supper-
 - No longer sees it as a means of salvation
 - Develops own understanding
 - 1522 – renounced his allegiance to the Roman Church
 - Grounded only in human laws
 - What is a Christian’s authority?
 - Jan 1523 – Disputation on 67 Articles
 - Summary of Articles:
 - *Sola Christus*
 - *Sola Scriptura*
 - *2nd & 3rd Articles*
 - *The summary of the gospel is that our Lord Christ, true Son of God, has made known to us the will of his heavenly Father and has redeemed us from death and reconciled us with God by his guiltlessness...Therefore, Christ is the only way to salvation of all who were, are now, or shall be*

- Zwingli Theology
 - Sola Scriptura
 - Scripture, not the Church (in its clerical power) mediates the Gospel, the good news of the God who favours humanity.
 - the sole infallible authority for doctrine and practice is the Word of God
 - Perspicuity (Clarity) of scripture
 - The self-interpreting nature of the Word of God
 - "...those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed, for salvation, are so clearly propounded and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them“ WCF
 - As opposed to “should not believe the gospel except as moved by the authority of the Catholic Church” Augustine
 - Zwingli's theology and morality were based on this single principle
 - If the Old or New Testament did not say something explicitly and literally, then no Christian should believe or practice it.
 - Change in Liturgy – change the Mass
 - The center of the worship service is the sermon
 - Liturgical singing disappeared and congregations sang
 - 1524 - Petitioned Zurich City Council to remove images, pictures, crucifixes, statues, and wall representations
 - Baptism –
 - Zwingli stopped short of adult-only baptism
 - Konrad Grebel formed a new community of those who saw that Infant Baptism was non-scriptural and therefore adults should be re-baptised (Anabaptists)
 - Children of Christians already belong to God and because in the Old Testament, infants are also circumcised, baptism is thus seen as a parallel to circumcision.
 - The seeds of Covenant Theology
 - Lord's Supper
 - Zwingli began to see that one's faith was in the risen savior, not a re-sacrificed physical Christ
 - Christ's presence was spiritually everywhere, not just in the bread and the wine
 - Much written by himself and Luther
 - Luther – “This IS my body”
 - Zwingli – can't mean physically but spiritually
 - “This *signifies* my body”
 - Accused Luther of too much Catholic influence
- Marburg Colloquy
 - Phillip of Hesse – realized that political survival of states depended on religious agreement
 - German Protestant and Catholic states
 - Swiss Protestant and Catholic cantons
 - 1529 – Called disagreeing theologians together to get one mutually agreeable religion
 - Allow and alliance between Germans and Swiss
 - 15 Articles of Faith
 - Luther and Zwingli agreed on 14 ½ of them
 - Neither would budge in their understanding of the Physical Presence of Christ at the Lord's Supper
 - Luther –not willing to give up many Catholic ceremonies
 - not willing to accept Zwingli's doctrine of reading Christian scriptures with unwavering literalness
 - The most important doctrinal issue they disagreed on was the nature of the **Eucharist**

- Augsburg 1530
 - German states allied together
 - Requirement to adhere to the Augsburg Confession or Tetrapolitan Confession (Strasbourg, Konstanz, Memmingen, Lindau – written by Martin Bucer)
 - Zwingli wrote a confession which was too harsh
 - Swiss Protestants left without any external alliance
 - Zurich, Bern, Basel
- Zwingli's Death and After
 - Zwingli spent the next two years preaching that the Gospel from the Word of God should rule every aspect of our lives
 - 1531 – Catholic Swiss Cantons declared war on Zurich
 - Zwingli unable to raise sufficient armed force to resist
 - October 1531 – Zwingli was killed in the Battle at Kappel
 - Irony, Zwingli, the ardent Swiss patriot, died as a soldier
 - Luther, “They that live by the sword, shall die by the sword”
 - Heinrich Bullinger was selected as his replacement
 - The “Father of Covenant Theology”
 - 1531 – John Calvin
 - Studying to be a lawyer
 - Not yet even converted