

Key Faith Issues Part One: *Heirs of the Reformation*

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LUTHER'S OBJECTIONS

- 1) Martin Luther protests practices of the Roman Catholic Church that are not rooted in Biblical truth. This is the beginning of the Reformation in 1517.
- 2) His objections include the Selling of Indulgences, Worship of Virgin Mary, Praying to Saints, Reverence for Relics, Infallibility of the Pope, Tradition Equal with Bible, Salvation by Works, Immorality of Clergy, Purgatory, and the Purchase of Church Offices.

ORIGINS of CHRISTIANITY

- 1) Luke 2:10 "But the angel said to them 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people...he is Christ the Lord...you will find a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger'."
- 2) Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor."
- 3) John 1:29 "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said 'Look, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"
- 4) Matthew 9:12 "It is not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick...For I have not come for the righteous, but sinners."

EARLY CHURCH

- 1) Apostolic Era 30 AD-100 AD
- 2) Acts 2:3,4 "They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues."
- 3) Acts 15:19 "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles that are turning to God." *Counsel at Jerusalem*
- 4) The Early Church has teachings on Leadership, Unity, Gifts, Resolving Disputes, Care for Widows, and Standards for Leaders. There is no Biblical discussion of buildings. The Apostles and Disciples often met in homes: Lydia (Acts 16), Nympha (Col. 4:15), Jason (Acts 17), Apphia (Philemon 2), and Priscia (1 Cor. 16:19)

DEFINITION of the CHURCH

- 1) Romans 12:4 "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body...we have different gifts, according to the grace given us."
- 2) I Cor. 12:13 "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free."
- 3) I Cor. 3:16 "You are God's temple...God's Spirit lives in you."
- 4) I Tim. 3:15 "God's household which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth."
- 5) I Tim. 2:2 "Live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

PATRISTIC ERA 100 AD – 451 AD

- 1) Persecution of the Church (3 Million Believers Killed)
- 2) 325 AD 7 Million Believers
- 3) Clergy "Called Ones"
- 4) Church Grows / Protect Sacred Scriptures

CONSTANTINE 312 AD

- 1) "State" Church / Protection
- 2) "Divinity of Christ" *Council of Nicaea* Bithynia 325 AD

BISHOP OF ROME 451 AD – 461 AD

- 1) Doctrine of Succession
- 2) Peter as First Pope "Voice of Peter" Final Arbiter – Bishop of Rome Greater than Bishops of Constantinople, Antioch, Corinth, Jerusalem, and Ephesus.
Chalcedon Council 451 AD – Celibacy, Monasteries, Building Cathedrals
- 3) Matthew 16:16 "Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"
- 4) Matthew 16:18 "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church."
- 5) Ephesians 2: 19-21 "You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ himself as the cornerstone."

INNOCENT III 1215 AD

- 1) Declares Pope, "Christ's Representative on Earth"
- 2) Leader of Universal Catholic Church
- 3) Papal Army, Prisons, Torture
- 4) Secular Power – Crown Monarchs

15th Century

- 1) East-West Split
- 2) Symony (purchase of Bishop and Cardinal Offices) Medici Family of Florence
- 3) Opulence, Greed, Politics, Pride, Corruption – Sin!
- 4) I Tim. 4:1-5 "In later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars whose consciences have been seared."
- 5) Isaiah 29:13 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." (Matthew 15:8)
- 6) Matthew 23:27 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like white washed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are filled with dead men's bones."

PAPACY in MIDDLE AGES

- 1) Temporal Trappings: Coat of Arms, Seal, Throne, Robes, Sedan Chair, Chancellor, Palatial Residence, Swiss Guards, and Financial Riches
- 2) Theology: Infallible Pronouncements Ex Cathedra, Church Tradition Equal to Bible's Authority, Works Necessary for Salvation, Excommunication of Secular Leaders, Vast Building Projects, Authority All Faith & Morals
- 3) Morality: Pope's Nephews (sons), Immorality of Clergy
- 4) Eph. 4:19 "Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more."
- 5) Prov. 8:13 "To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech."
- 6) Prov. 16:5 "The LORD detests all the proud of heart."
- 7) Col. 3:5 "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature....Vs. 12 "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."

FINAL STRAW – 2nd ST. PETER'S BASILLICA

- 1) Pope Leo 10th Finance New Basilica - \$43 Million Raised by Selling Indulgences
- 2) 730 ft. by 500 ft. / 240 ft. Dome / 164,000 Square Ft. / 60,000 People Inside / 5 Acres
- 3) Archbishop Albrecht "Remission of Sins of the Dead"
- 4) Johann Tetzel in Germany "Coins Release Souls from Purgatory"

STANDARD for CHURCH LEADERSHIP - HUMILITY

- 1) Matthew 23:9 "And do not call anyone on earth 'father' for you have one Father in heaven."
- 2) Matthew 20:26-28 "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many."
- 3) Matthew 18:3,4 "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."
- 4) Mark 9:35 "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."
- 5) Eph. 4:2 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

PILLARS of the REFORMATION

- 1) God's Glory 2nd Tim. 1:9 "By the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace." Not a Man Centered Religion (Pope, priests, works, even believers) but God Centered I Cor. 10:31 "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
- 2) Scripture Alone – Not Tradition Revelation 22:18,19 "If anyone adds anything to them..."
- 3) Christ Alone As Mediator – Not Priests, Saints, or Mary I Timothy 2:5 "One mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."
- 4) Grace – Not Works Titus 3:7 "Justified by his grace..."
- 5) Faith Declares Us Righteous Gal. 2:16 "Justified by faith in Christ, not observing the law."