

Reformation Day- One of the Church's Great Moments in History

What was reformed in the Reformation?

Who is the main person in view when people think of the Reformation?

What was the name of the document that began the whole thing?

Penance: voluntary self-punishment inflicted as an outward expression of repentance for having done wrong: he had done public penance for those hasty words.

: a Roman Catholic sacrament in which a member of the church confesses sins to a priest and is given absolution.

Purgatory: a place or state of suffering inhabited by the souls of sinners who are expiating their sins before going to heaven.

Indulgence: An indulgence is the extra-sacramental remission of the temporal punishment due, in God's justice, to sin that has been forgiven, which remission is granted by the Church in the exercise of the power of the keys, through the application of the superabundant merits of Christ and of the saints, and for some just and reasonable motive. ¹

Here is a copy;



Copy of an inexpensive indulgence sold by Tetzel

Translation: "In the authority of all the saints, and in compassion towards thee, I absolve thee from all sins and misdeeds, and remit all punishment for ten days."

¹ <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07783a.htm>

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Cost of Indulgence: "Kings and Queens: 25 gulden; high counts and prelates: 10 gulden; low counts and prelates: 6 gulden; merchants and townspeople: 3 gulden; artisans: 1 gulden; others: .5 gulden; the indigent were to fast and pray." AND, 3d, (1/4 of a penny) equivalent to a days wage for a carpenter in the 13th century. In the 16th century, 4d was the cost of "a general level pardon".²

Sacrament: a religious ceremony or act of the Christian Church that is regarded as an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual divine grace, in particular. (in the Roman Catholic and many Orthodox Churches) the rites of baptism, confirmation, the Eucharist, penance, anointing of the sick, ordination, and matrimony.

Protestant churches have 2 sacraments, baptism and communion.

Letter to Albrecht of Mainz:

God on high, is this the way the souls entrusted to your care are prepared for death? It is high time that you looked into this matter. I can be silent no longer. In fear and trembling we must work out our salvation. Indulgences can offer no security but only the remission of external canonical penalties.

Works of piety and charity are infinitely better than indulgences. Christ did not command the preaching of indulgences but of the gospel, and what a horror it is, what a peril to a bishop, if he never gives the gospel to his people except along with the racket of indulgences. In the instructions of Your Paternity to the indulgence sellers, issued without your knowledge and consent, indulgences are called the inestimable gift of God for the reconciliation of man to God and the emptying of purgatory. Contrition is declared to be unnecessary. What shall I do, Illustrious Prince, if not to beseech Your Paternity through Jesus Christ our Lord to suppress utterly these instructions lest someone arise to confute this book and to bring Your Illustrious Sublimity into obloquy, which I dread but fear if something is not done speedily? May Your Paternity accept my faithful admonition. I, too, am one of your sheep. May the Lord Jesus guard you forever. Amen.

Luther responds at the Diet of Worms:

Luther was asked to recant all of his writings. **and Luther famously said,**
However, since I am a man and not God, I cannot provide my writings with any other defense than that which my Lord Jesus Christ provided for His teaching. When He had been

² https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/1fo5ep/historically_how_much_did_the_catholic_church/, Whoosier

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interrogated concerning His teaching before Annas and had received a buffet from a servant, He said: "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil." *If the Lord Himself, who knew that He could not err, did not refuse to listen to witness against His teaching, even from a worthless slave, how much more ought I, scum that I am, capable of naught but error, to seek and to wait for any who may wish to bear witness against my teaching.*

And so, through the mercy of God, I ask Your Imperial Majesty, and Your Illustrious Lordships, or anyone of any degree, to defeat them by the writings of the Prophets or by the Gospels; *for I shall be most ready, if I be better instructed, to recant any error, and I shall be the first in casting my writings into the fire. . . .*

Luther then replied: Your Imperial Majesty and Your Lordships demand a simple answer. Here it is, plain and unvarnished. *Unless I am convicted [convinced] of error by the testimony of Scripture or (since I put no trust in the unsupported authority of Pope or councils, since it is plain that they have often erred and often contradicted themselves) by manifest reasoning, I stand convicted [convinced] by the Scriptures to which I have appealed, and my conscience is taken captive by God's word, I cannot and will not recant anything, for to act against our conscience is neither safe for us, nor open to us.*

On this I take my stand. I can do no other. God help me.

The Church of Rome maintains these and many other unbiblical positions to this day..

CCC 100, "The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and to the bishops in communion with him."

CCC 82, ". . .the Church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence'."

CCC 980, "This sacrament of Penance is necessary for salvation for those who have fallen after Baptism, just as Baptism is necessary for salvation for those who have not yet been reborn."

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CCC 1471, "The doctrine and practice of indulgences in the Church are closely linked to the effects of the sacrament of Penance. What is an indulgence? 'An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.' 'An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.' The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead."

The 5 Solas:

1 - [Sola Scriptura](#), "Scripture Alone." The Bible alone is the sole authority for all matters of faith and practice. Scripture and Scripture alone is the standard by which all teachings and traditions of the church must be measured. As Martin Luther so eloquently stated when told to recant his teachings, "Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen."

Gal. 1:9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

2 - [Sola Gratia](#), "Salvation by Grace Alone." Salvation is proof of God's undeserved favor; we are rescued from God's wrath by His grace alone, not by any work we do. God's blessing in Christ is the sole efficient cause of salvation. This grace is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit who brings us to Christ by releasing us from our bondage to sin and raising us from spiritual death to spiritual life.

Rom. 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

3 - [Sola Fide](#), "Salvation by Faith Alone." We are justified by faith in Christ alone, not by the works of the Law. It is by faith in Christ that His righteousness is imputed to us as the only possible satisfaction of God's perfect standard.

Eph. 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

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Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.

4 - **Solus Christus**, “In Christ Alone.” Salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone; no one and nothing else can save. Jesus’ substitutionary death on the cross is sufficient for our justification and reconciliation to God the Father. The gospel has not been preached if Christ’s redemption is not declared and if faith in His resurrection is not solicited.

Heb. 7:27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Heb. 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Heb. 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

5 - **Soli Deo Gloria**, “For the Glory of God Alone.” Salvation is of God and has been accomplished by God for His glory alone. As Christians we must magnify Him always and live our lives in His presence, under His authority, and for His glory.

Eph. 1:5-6 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Eph 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

1Cor. 1:26-31 ¶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*. **27** But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; **28** and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, **29** that no flesh should glory in His presence. **30** But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— **31** that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

Psa. 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

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Psa. 73:25-26 Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is none* upon earth *that* I desire besides You. *26* My flesh and my heart fail; *But God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

The Council of Trent 1563

What was this council for?

Has the Catholic church ever changed its position on any issues decided at Trent?

What is biblical unity?

What are some things the Catholic church believes differently from the Protestant church today?

What lessons should you take away from the Reformation?