

Station #1

The Reformation: Causes



Martin Luther, a monk from Wittenberg in Germany began to criticize the power and corruption of the Catholic Church in 1517. Luther demanded reform of the Church.

Some of Luther's Criticisms of the Church:



- Indulgences: Paying for Forgiveness
 - Pardoners, with permission from the Pope, travelled all across Europe selling Indulgences. They said all you had to do was buy one and you could pay for forgiveness—even for someone who had already died. You could buy a ticket to heaven!

- The Bible: Only in Latin

- Luther said it was unfair of the Pope to stop translations of the Bible. Ordinary people couldn't read Latin. Luther said it was unfair because they had to rely on what the priest told them—they couldn't read it themselves!



Luther's supporters became known as Protestants because they protested against the Church.

Questions:

1. Where did Martin Luther come from?
2. What were indulgences?
3. What language was the Bible in?
4. Why did this make it difficult for ordinary people?
5. Why were Luther's followers called Protestants?

Station #2:

Luther's 95 Theses

Martin Luther was very angry when Tetzel and his assistants began preaching and selling Indulgences in Wittenberg. He was so angry that he sat down and wrote out a long list of arguments against the selling of Indulgences. He nailed the finished list to the door of the Church at Wittenberg Castle in October 1517. The list was called "The Ninety-Five Theses."

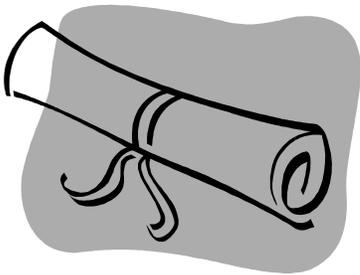
Primary Source: Some of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses

5. The Pope has no power to let people off of punishments; they must pay for their sins. He can only do so for penalties he or the Church has imposed.

21. Pardoners are mistaken when they say that by their indulgence a person is freed and saved from all punishment.

27. They preach Man, not God, who says that the soul fled out of purgatory as soon as the money rattles in the chest.

86. Why does not the Pope, whose riches are enormous, build the basilica of St. Peter [Cathedral of the Pope in Rome] with his own money instead of taking it from poor believers?



This list was supposed to be things he wished to discuss with other Churchmen—he did NOT write them with the idea of starting a rebellion against the Church.

Questions:

1. What was the purpose of the 95 Theses?
2. Where did he post the 95 Theses?
3. Rewrite one of the 95 Theses above in your own words. Include the number of the thesis that you are rewriting.

Station #3:

Other Causes of Reformation

Luther's ideas were supported by many thousands of people. This encouraged him to attack other Catholic practices besides indulgences. Other ideas included:

- Praying to Saints
- Going on Pilgrimages (Journeys to Holy Sights)
- Fasting
- Giving money to charity to get forgiveness for sins
- The use of statues in churches

Luther kept going back to his original idea that all you needed to be a good Christian was faith in God, and that you did not even need a priest to help you pray or speak to God.

This was completely against the teachings of the Church and was called heresy. Many people had been executed in the past for making similar statements against the teachings of the Church.

Questions:

1. What other issues did Martin Luther have trouble with in regards to the Catholic Church?
2. What is Luther's original idea about being a good Christian?
3. From this reading, what do you infer about the meaning of the idea of heresy?

Station #4:

Support for Luther Grows

The invention of the printing press helped to spread Luther's ideas. Pamphlets (hand bills) were printed and distributed cheaply and quickly throughout Germany and the rest of Europe. Many people read or were told of his ideas and agreed with many of the things he wrote including:

- Objecting to paying taxes to Rome (to the Church/Pope)
- The fact that many priests knew little or no Latin (the language of the Bible) and had little training
- The foreigners were made bishops, and they cared nothing for people in their care.
- German lords objected to the Church interfering in German politics.

One very powerful supporter of Luther was the Duke of Saxony. He insisted that the Pope should send someone to Germany to answer Luther's arguments. In 1518 Cardinal Cajetan went to Augsburg (a city in Germany) to argue with Luther; but this only resulted in Luther growing even more apart from the Catholic Church. In June 1519, Luther made the claim the **"the authority of the Bible was greater than that of the Pope."**

Primary Source:

"We see there is no gold, and almost no silver in the German land. What little there is left is taken away by the Church in Rome. Would you know, dear Germany, what they do with our money? It does not lie idle! [Pope] Leo the Tenth gives part to his nephews, relatives, cardinals, secretaries and other officials. They build marble homes. They have precious stones, are clothed in purple and fine linen, and live in luxury. In short, a vast number of the worst men are supported in Rome in idle life by means of our money."

Questions:

1. How does the author of the primary source support Luther's ideas?
2. How do you think Luther would make his ideas known today?
3. How would new ideas be spread before the invention of printing?
4. How does printing help spread new ideas?

Source #5:

Politics in Germany



Germany at the time was not one huge country as it is today, but a collection of very small independent countries all with their own rulers. One man had the loyalty of all these German princes, and he was called the “Holy Roman Emperor.” This emperor was elected by a collection of Princes, Kings and Archbishops—all in Germany. The Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I had died and the German princes were very anxious about who would be their new Emperor. The Pope wanted King Francis I of France to be elected the Holy Roman Emperor and therefore he did not want to be seen interfering in German affairs so he left Luther alone. In the end King Charles I of Spain was elected, and the Pope now had nothing to lose by attacking Luther. But because of the election of the Holy Roman Emperor, it was two years before the Pope started to do anything—and in that time, support for Luther and his views increased.

Primary Source: Letter from Alfonso de Valdes

“Luther, relying upon the Duke of Saxony’s protection, wrote and published new attacks on the Catholic faith. The Pope launched a most severe bull [law] against Luther and his supporters. Then Luther proclaimed the Pope himself a heretic. Not content with this, he publically burned all the books on Catholic law he could find in Wittenberg.

The report of these events, spread throughout all Germany, stirred up the Germans against Rome. If the Pope does not come to the relief of these evils, I fear, and I do very much fear, that this evil will spread so widely as to be absolutely incurable.”

Questions:

1. Describe Germany at the time of Luther using the description above.
2. Why is Alfonso de Valdes (the author of the Primary Source) worried?
3. Is de Valdes for or against Luther’s Reformation?

Source #6:

The Diet of Worms

The new Holy Roman Emperor was a very good Catholic and he decided that something had to be done to try and stop Luther's criticisms of the Church and the Pope. He called a meeting (or Diet) at Worms, a city near Mainz in Germany. He promised Luther that he would be safe if he went to this meeting. At the meeting the Holy Roman Emperor insisted that only the Pope had the authority to say what the Bible meant—not Luther or anyone else. Luther refused to take back anything he had said. The whole point of the meeting, however, was to insist that only the Pope had the authority to say what the Bible meant, not Luther. As a result, Charles V issued the Edict of Worms.

Primary Source: Martin Luther

"Unless I am proven wrong by the Bible and by plain reason, I cannot and I will not go back on anything. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

Primary Source: Charles V's "Edict of Worms"

"If you have sufficient force, you shall take Luther prisoner and deliver him to us. In like manner you shall proceed against his friends, patrons and followers."

Questions:

1. Why would the new Holy Roman Emperor want to stop Luther?
2. What was the most important reason why the Holy Roman Emperor called the Diet of Worms?
3. How does Martin Luther's statement prove that Luther was defying the Pope?



Station #7: Henry VIII and the Break with Rome

Henry VIII became king of England in 1509 when he was 18 years old. Henry VIII began his reign as a loyal Catholic accepting the Pope as the head of the Church. The Pope even gave Henry the title “Defender of the Faith.” This was a reward for writing a book that defended the Pope against criticism from a German reformer called Martin Luther.

However, things did not stay the same—Henry VIII and the Pope had a quarrel. It was over Henry’s marriage to Catherine of Aragon. In 1527, Henry asked the Pope to free him from the marriage by getting a divorce. The Catholic Church does not allow for divorce from marriages.

By 1533, Henry VIII’s mistress, Anne Boleyn was pregnant. Henry VIII was desperate to find a solution and a divorce from his wife, Catherine of Aragon. A growing number of people in England, including Anne, were Protestants who protested against the Catholic Church. They felt the Pope had too much power and control over England. They also complained that the Catholic Church was corrupt—shown by the wealthy monasteries and churches.

Henry did not really agree with all the complaints against the Catholic Church, but he was determined to have a male heir. Henry use Parliament to push through his changes and became the head of a new church—the Church of England [Anglican Church].

In 1534, King Henry made himself Supreme Head of the Church of England breaking away from the Roman Catholic Church and the Pope in Rome. Henry is then able to remove from power, by execution, the people in England who stayed loyal to the Catholic Church. Henry also gains wealth by closing monasteries and churches and taking their wealth.

Questions:

1. Why did the Pope give Henry VIII the title “Defender of the Faith”?
2. Why did Henry argue with the Pope?
3. Why did Henry go against the Church if he didn’t agree with all of the beliefs of Protestantism?

Station #8:

Henry VIII and the Break with Rome (Pt 2)

Part of the reason for the break with Rome was Henry VIII's lack of a male heir and the involvement of Anne Boleyn. Read through the sources and think about how these ideas would cause a break with the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church does not believe in divorce.

Secondary Source #1: Robert Lacy's "The Life and Times of King Henry VIII" (1972)



"Good wife though she was, Catherine of Aragon had failed in her primary function, to provide Henry with a healthy male heir. It had not been for lack of trying. She had borne her first baby in January 1510. It had been a daughter, still-born. Within a year she produced a son...but then the child had sickened and died. 1513 saw the birth of another boy, and in 1514 yet another, but neither survived. In the same year Catherine delivered prematurely a fourth son still-born. Not until 1516 did she produce a sturdy child, and then it was a girl named Mary. There were several more pregnancies, but no son came, and before long Catherine's pregnancies ceased."



Secondary Source #2: Scarisbrick's "Henry VIII" (1968)

"The King had tired of his wife and fallen in love with Anne Boleyn, who would give herself entirely to him only if he would give himself entirely to her."

Questions:

1. What does Secondary Source #1 tell about Henry's reasons for leaving the church?
2. What does Secondary Source #2 tell about Henry's reasons for leaving the church?

Station #9:

Henry VIII and the Break with Rome (Pt 3)

Henry VIII had many reasons for his break with the Church of Rome and the creation of the Anglican Church.

- Henry VIII married his brother's wife after his brother died.
- Henry had a daughter called Mary.
- Henry was a strong and powerful king.
- Henry was in love with Anne Boleyn who was expecting a baby.
- Henry wouldn't have to share power with the Pope. He would be in complete control.
- Henry's wife was too old to have a baby son.
- The Pope would not grant Henry a divorce.
- The Church was very wealthy and Henry would be able to take Church lands for himself.

Questions:

1. Number the statements 1-8 showing the importance of the reasons.
 - 1=most important reason
 - 8=least important reason/not important at all
2. Now that you have numbered the reasons in order of importance, explain what you think was Henry's most important reason and why you chose it.
 - I chose _____ for my number one reason because _____
3. There are many motives behind people's actions. What type of motive was Henry's number 1 reason that you chose for making himself head of the church. Circle only 1.
 - Religion
 - Money
 - Power
 - Love