

# THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

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500 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 31, 1517 - OCTOBER 31, 2017

# The Reformation

October 31, 1517

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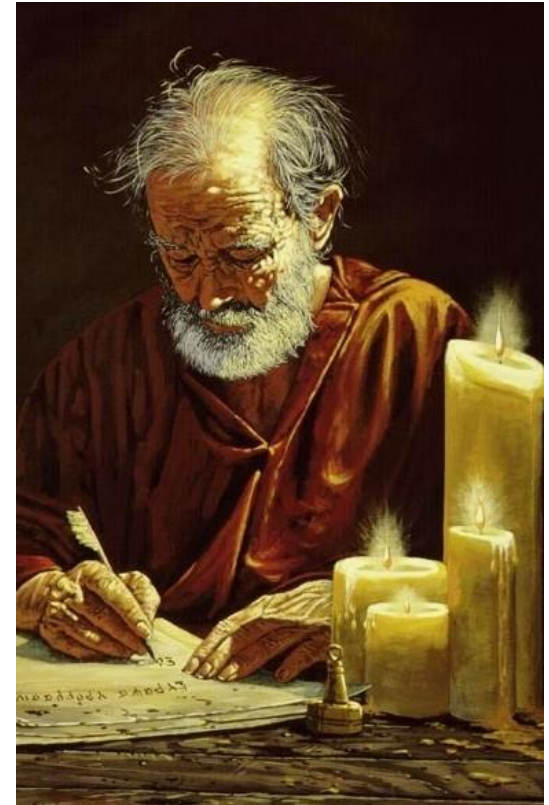
- What had happened to the Church that Jesus founded so that it needed a “reformation”?
- Let’s take a brief overview of the history of the Christian Church and note what factors led up to the “Reformation,” what happened in the Reformation, and what are the results that impact Christians today.

# The New Testament Church

c. AD 30-99 (first century)

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- Jesus, Peter, John and Paul
- Christianity spreads from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria and to parts of the Roman Empire including Rome.



The apostle Paul

# The Early Church

(Patristic Period c. AD 100-451)

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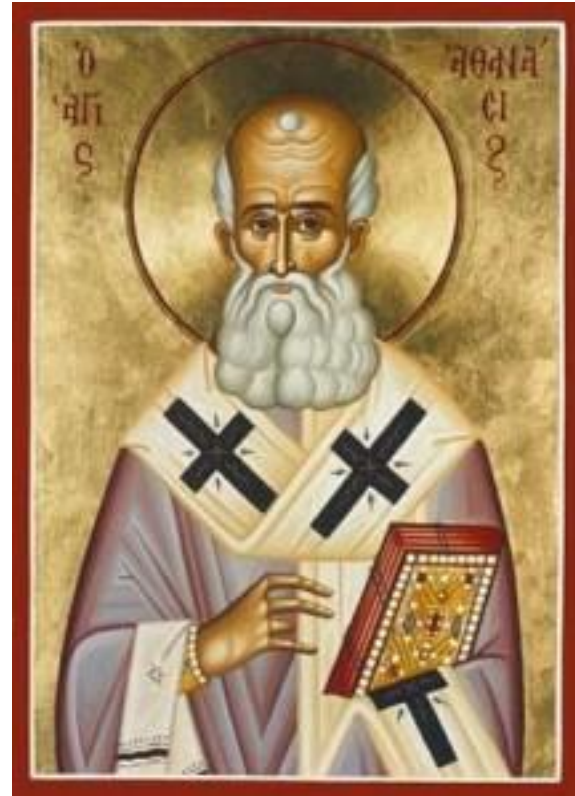
Key locations of Christianity at the beginning of this period:

- **Antioch** (Cappadocia) in Asia Minor (Greek speaking)
- **Alexandria** in North Africa (Greek speaking)
- **Carthage** in North Africa (Latin speaking)

# Key theologians

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- **Justin Martyr** - AD 100-165  
NT canon
- **Irenaeus** - AD 130-200  
four Gospels
- **Tertullian** - AD 160-225  
Trinitarian terms
- **Athanasius** - AD 296-373  
Trinity and Trinitarian  
theology; recognized 27  
books of NT canon

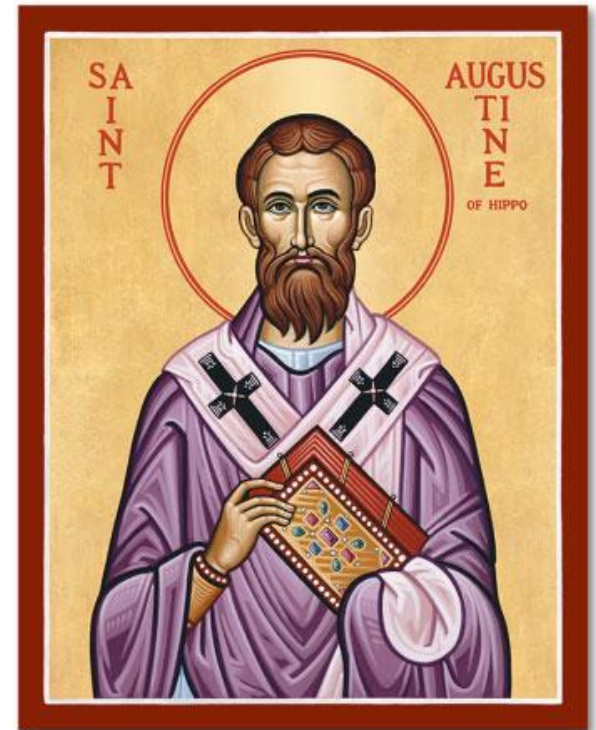


Athanasius

# Key theologians & events

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- **Augustine of Hippo** - AD 354-430
- **Emperor Constantine** - AD 306-337 legalizes Christianity
- **Council of Nicaea** - AD 325 affirms Trinity doctrine and recognizes preeminence of bishops of Alexandria, Antioch and Rome
- AD 330 – Constantine moves imperial residence to **Constantinople** (the “new Rome”)



Augustine

# Leo I – Bishop of Rome

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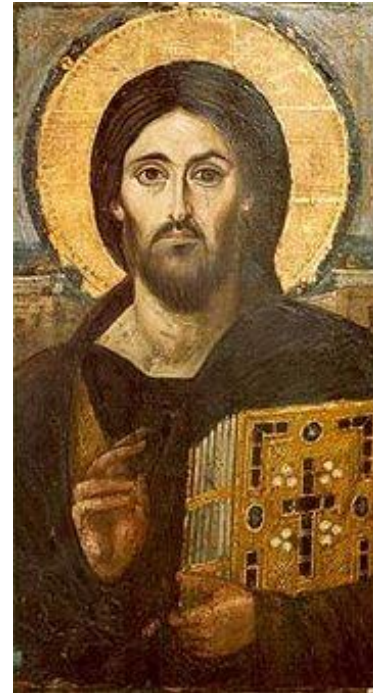
- c. AD 400-461, Leo I argued for “Petrine supremacy” and primacy of church at Rome
- church at Rome ~ 30,000 members
- Emperor Valentinian III backs Leo I
- Leo I takes title *Pontifex Maximus*



# Council of Chalcedon (AD 451)

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- Affirmed that Jesus was fully human and fully divine
- Decided that the Bishop of Rome and the Bishop (Patriarch) of Constantinople were equal in the leadership of the catholic (universal) church



Jesus: one person,  
two natures



# “Dark Ages” (c. AD 451-1050)

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- Rome besieged by Goths and Vandals
- By 11<sup>th</sup> century, Islam controlled much of the Mediterranean world
- Remainder of Christianity (catholic church) now centered in the Byzantine Empire in the East (under the Bishop of Constantinople) and in Rome in the West (under the Bishop of Rome)
- Competition for authority grows between these two dominant bishops

# Middle Ages (c. AD 1050-1500)

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- AD 1054: “great chasm” (split) between the catholic church in the East and the catholic church in the West
- Primary reason = authority of bishop (Pope) in West vs. bishop (Patriarch) in East
- Also theological: West tended to follow Augustine (Latin), and placed great emphasis on tradition and papal authority in all matters
- East tended to follow early church Fathers (Greek)
- Also political, geographical, and linguistic reasons

# The Renaissance (re-birth)

c. AD 1350-1550

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- In Western Europe, a revival of learning in the arts architecture, culture, philosophy, etc. (supposedly separated the Middle Ages from the Modern period).
- Primarily a revival of classical Latin and Greek literature to be read and studied in their original languages.



# The Renaissance and the Reformation

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- The emphasis on reading ancient texts in their original languages included reading biblical texts in Hebrew and Greek and comparing that to the extant Latin translations.



# The Renaissance and the Reformation

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- The result was a realization that the Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible could not be trusted. In addition to reading ancient biblical texts in their original languages, reading the early Church Fathers in Greek led to the realization that some practices, doctrines, and theology of the Church in the West were in error. A reform in practice, doctrine, and theology was apparently necessary.

# Factors contributing to the Reformation

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- Realization that the church had developed biblical, doctrinal and theological errors
- The growing availability of paper and the invention of the printing press making the Bible and religious instruction available to the common people.
- Sale by the church of “indulgences” with which to obtain justification and get the dead out of Purgatory.
- Widespread corruption and immorality among clergy.

# Factors contributing to the Reformation

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- Common practice of ***simony*** – purchasing an appointment as a priest or bishop without having any qualifications for the position.
- Rise of ***nationalism*** as countries (esp. Germany) became wealthier and local rulers wanted independence from the Pope and Emperor.

# How did the Reformation begin?

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Though many factors were leading to a reformation in the church, the event that is credited for beginning the Reformation occurred on October 31, 1517.





# How did the Reformation begin?

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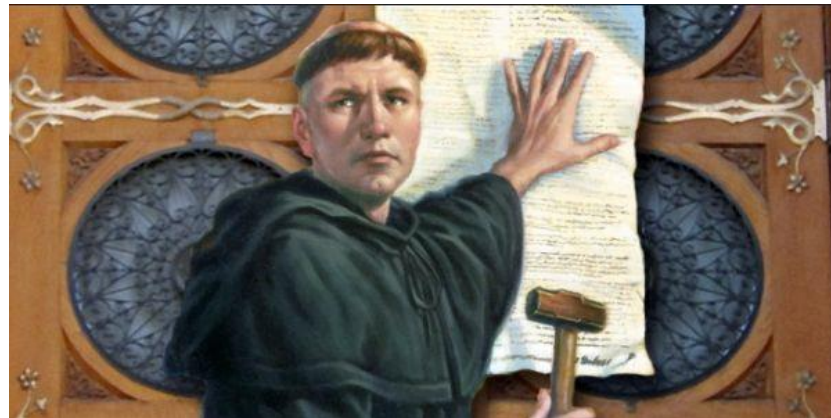
Martin Luther (1483-1546), a German professor of theology at the University of Wittenberg, a composer, monk and priest posted his “95 theses” on the door of the All Saints Church.



# How did the Reformation begin?

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Luther argued that the Pope had erred in selling indulgences and in teaching that justification could be purchased by buying the excess good works of the dead saints and thus getting yourself when you die, or a dead friend, out of purgatory and into heaven by virtue of the purchased good works of others.



Martin Luther



The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God, love brings the person to people.

AZ QUOTES

# How did the Reformation begin?

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Though Luther had made known his objections to other doctrines of the Pope, they were overlooked. Indulgences were a major fundraiser for the Pope and he needed the income to finish building St. Peter's basilica in Rome. Luther was branded a heretic and excommunicated.

*"All who call on God in true faith, earnestly from the heart, will certainly be heard, and will receive what they have asked and desired."*

*Martin Luther*

# How did the Reformation begin?

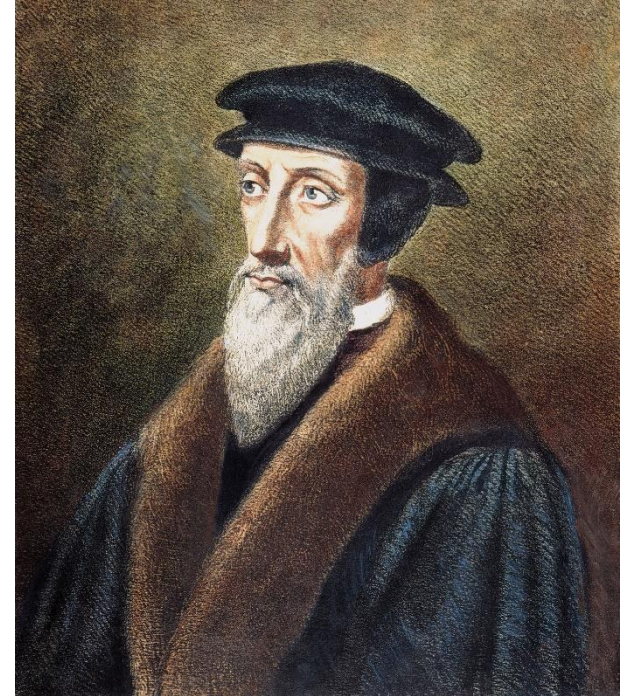
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- Luther faced death for his heresy. But the princes of Germany supported him and offered protection. The princes and others in Germany protested to the Pope regarding his actions toward Luther.
- The Pope responded that they were just a group of “protestants.” Thus the movement to reform the church became known as the “Protestant Reformation” and those who participated in calling for reformation became forever known as “Protestants.”

# Major figures of the Reformation

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- **Martin Luther** (1483-1546)  
instigator of the Reformation in Germany - Lutheran Church
- **Huldreich Zwingli** (1484-1531)  
Zurich, Switzerland - Reformed Church
- **John Calvin** (1509-1564)  
Geneva, Switzerland - Calvinists, Reformed Church, Presbyterian church, Particular Baptist church



John Calvin

# Major figures of the Reformation

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- **Henry VIII (1491-1547)**  
English Reformation -  
Church of England,  
Anglicans, Episcopalians,  
Puritans, Separatists,  
Congregationalists, General  
Baptists, Methodists,  
Salvation Army, Pentecostals



# Henry VIII

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The reasons Henry VIII led the church in England to separate from the Pope were different from those of the European reformers. However, most historians accept that the Church of England that emerged from Henry's break should be included under the term "Protestant." Not all would agree. However, most of the groups that have evolved from the Church of England generally would be considered Protestant.



# Basic tenets of the Reformation

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While the European Reformers did not agree on every point of doctrine, there were some basic tenets of belief on which they insisted in contradistinction to the Papal teaching.

- **Sola scriptura** – the “Bible only” (not tradition) as authoritative source of doctrine and teaching in the Church
- **Sola gratia** – “grace only” not justified by merit
- **Sola fide** – “faith only” justified by grace through faith, not works

# Basic tenets of the Reformation

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*Added later:*

- **Solus Christus** – “Christ only” no other means of salvation; priesthood of all believers; no veneration of Mary, angels, saints, etc.
- **Soli Deo Gloria** – “God’s glory only” the purpose of human life

# Some results of the Protestant Reformation

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- All Protestant churches today descend in one way or another from the Reformation period and the various Christian leaders of this time.
- Early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century Christians began to refer to themselves as the “catholic [universal] church.”
- The Great Creeds of the Church (Niceno-Constantinopolitan AD 381, and the Apostles’ Creed AD 390) refer to the Christian belief in  
    “...one holy catholic and apostolic church...”

# Some results of the Protestant Reformation

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- Over time, the “one holy catholic church” became referred to as the “catholic church in the East” and the “catholic church in the West.”
- In AD 1054 the split became official with the leadership of the Patriarch of Constantinople in the East and the Pope of Rome in the West.

# Some results of the Protestant Reformation

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- The church in the East emphasized that, unlike the church in the West, it had remained faithful to the teachings of the Apostles and early Church Fathers and that it was “orthodox” (right-thinking, right doctrines).
- In time, it became known as the Orthodox Catholic Church and then simply as the Orthodox Church.

# Some results of the Protestant Reformation

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- The church in the West continued to call itself the “Catholic Church.”
- During the English Reformation and the reign of Henry VIII, the “Protestant” Christians in England began using derogatory terms against the Pope and his “Roman” Church. The term stuck and the catholic church in the West became known as the “Roman Catholic Church.”

# Some results of the Protestant Reformation

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- The Christians who became known as “Protestants” have today multiplied into many different denominations.
- Having originated in Europe, then spread to the American Colonies, Protestantism now exists throughout the world and continues to grow.
- All groups holding to the five basic tenets of the Protestant Reformation owe their spiritual heritage to the age of the Protestant Reformation and to the Christian leaders of that era.