

SUNDAY SESSIONS

Church History 1

WEEK 4
THE REFORMATION: PART 1

INTRODUCTION

A definition of The Reformation:

“A religious, social, economic, and political movement shaped by a myriad of contextual factors, which aimed *principally* at reforming the late medieval Roman Catholic Church, but which *ultimately* resulted in the rending of the old, Western church structure. This division included the establishment of the Protestant tradition that subsequently splintered almost immediately into a diversity of confessional heritages.”

- Stephen B. Eccher, PhD, University of St. Andrews (and my church history I and II prof at SEBTS)

Discussion Time 1:

1. What do you already know about this period of church history called the Reformation?
2. Why do you think it can be easy for us to romanticize people, specifically Christians, of the past, and forget that they were often flawed and complicated people? What are some of the dangers implicit in this posture (Becca mentioned a few, but there are definitely more!)?

HISTORY

1510-1520

“If, unfortunately, there are things in Rome which cannot be improved, there is not – and cannot be – any reason for tearing oneself away from the church in schism. Rather, the worse things become, the more one should help her and stand by her, for by schism and contempt nothing can be mended.”

- Martin Luther, early 1519 AD (McGrath, Alister E. Historical Theology, 2nd edition (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), p. 172.)

1520-1530

1530-1540

“What kind of church is the pope’s church? It is an uncertain, vacillating, and tottering church. Indeed, it is a deceitful, lying church, doubting and unbelieving, without God’s Word. For the Pope with his wrong keys teaches his church to doubt and be uncertain... It is difficult enough for a wretched conscience to believe. How can one believe at all if, to begin with, doubt is cast upon the object of one’s belief? Thereby doubt and despair are only strengthened and confirmed.”

- Martin Luther 1530 AD

1540-1550

IMPLICATIONS FOR TODAY

What can the Reformation Teach us Today?

1.

2.

CONCLUSION

Discussion Time 2:

1. What is something new that you learned today about the Reformation?
2. How (if at all) did our lesson today give you hope about how God may be working and moving in the world today in ways we can't always see?

WORKS CITED:

A Reformation Timeline by Britannica -

<https://www.britannica.com/summary/Reformation-Timeline>

Historical Theology: An Introduction to the History of Christian Thought by Alister E. McGrath

On the Incarnation by Saint Athanasius (with an Introduction by C.S. Lewis)

The Story of Christianity, Volume I: The Early Church to the Dawn of the Reformation by Justo Gonzalez

The Story of Christianity, Volume II: The Reformation to the Present Day by Justo Gonzalez

Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity by Mark A. Knoll