

The Reformation – Questions

1. Briefly define the reformation. When did it take place, what were its goals, what did it seek to reform?
 - Its beginning date is usually marked as October 31, 1517 although there were others that preceded this.
 - It sought to reform the Catholic church by correcting abuses and false teachings that had occurred through the years.
2. What do you think is different about the reformation and restoration?
 - The reformation is usually considered an effort to change the corruptions of the Catholic church while still retaining the identity of the church.
 - Restoration is usually considered an effort to completely restore the church that existed in the 1st century by going back to scriptural practices and scriptural practices alone.
3. What was Martin Luther's role in the Catholic church?
 - He was a priest, monk, and theologian.
4. How did Martin Luther's understanding of scripture differ from the Catholic church? (hint – faith, grace, works)
 - He disputed that forgiveness could be purchased with money (indulgences).
 - He believed that scripture alone should be the guide to practices of the church.
 - He believed that salvation was not related to good works but was a free gift of God.
 - He challenged the authority of the pope.
 - He considered all baptized Christians to be priests.
 - He believed that priests should have the right to marry.
5. Where did Martin Luther live and what was the main action he is known for that started the reformation?
 - He lived in Germany.
 - On October 31, 1517, he posted 95 theses on the door of the Wittenburg church.
 - The theses were predicated by an indulgence salesman coming to Germany to raise funds for St. Peter's Basilica.
 - They were also sent in a letter to the archbishop.
6. In what country did Huldreich Zwingli lead a reformation movement?
 - Zwingli lived in Switzerland.
7. What were some points of disagreement between Zwingli and the Catholic church?
 - He disagreed with fasting during Lent.
 - He opposed the hierarchy of the church.
 - He felt that priests should be able to marry.
 - He disagreed with the use of images in worship.
 - He and Luther met but could not agree on whether Christ was present in the eucharist.

8. Where was John Calvin from and where did he work (multiple places)?

- He was born in France and worked in France and Switzerland.
- He did a great deal of work in Geneva until he was driven out for a period. He eventually returned and more or less gained religious control of the city.

9. What is the main doctrine that characterizes Calvinism?

- Predestination – salvation is predetermined and cannot be changed – all men are not created equal in God’s eyes
- Some other beliefs and teachings of Calvin:
 - Placed great importance on the sermon
 - Distrusted use of music in religious services believing that it distracted people from worship and seeking knowledge of God
 - Musical instruments were banned from churches - though congregational singing was permitted
 - Psalms took the place of hymns in services
 - He rejected the organization of the Medieval Church as contrary to the New Testament
 - There were to be no bishops and all ministers were equal
 - Elders were civilian (laymen) who lived within the congregation and who were elected by the city council (Calvin was not in favor of this but it did link city and state)
 - Elders and deacons were subject to popular appointment
 - Sins were made crimes - no work or pleasure on a Sunday; no extravagance in dress
 - Taverns were shut down and replaced with places that served alcohol accompanied by scripture reading

10. What was the main doctrine of the Anabaptists and why were they so heavily persecuted because of it?

- Believer’s baptism or adult baptism
- Other religions believed in infant baptism and felt the Anabaptist teaching was heresy
- They were persecuted by Catholics and other protestants

11. Were Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, and the Anabaptists in agreement on reformation?

- No
- Calvin and Zwingli believed the Lord’s Supper was a memorial, Luther believed it was the flesh and blood of Christ
- Luther believed that things not in the Bible were allowed – singing, dancing - Calvin believed anything not in scripture was expressly forbidden
- Anabaptists tended toward free will, the others toward predestination
- Luther and Zwingli felt that church and state should be one, Calvin and Anabaptists felt they should be separate – though Calvin’s practice differed from his belief at times

12. What did Henry VIII want to change about Catholicism and what church resulted from that?

- He wanted to be able to divorce Catherine of Aragorn to marry Anne Boleyn.
- Henry originally proclaimed himself as supreme head of the church in England. This eventually led to the formation of the Church of England.

13. Where did the Puritans flee to escape persecution in England?

- First to the Netherlands then to America (New England).

14. What reformed church became the official church of Scotland?

- The Presbyterian Church

15. The wars and fighting as a result of religious differences led to what age in the 17th and 18th centuries?

- The Protestant Reformation led to a series of religious wars in Europe.
- Catholics and Protestants in particular fought each other.
- The Thirty Years War (1618-1648) was one of the worst conflicts in Europe. Religious differences, particularly between Lutherans and Catholics, was one of the causes.
- The Age of Enlightenment or the Age of Reason was a result of seeking a more reasonable religion that would not result in such bloodshed.
- John Locke (1632-1704) was one of the most influential thinkers and writers of this period.
- This brought a more rational way of thinking into religion.