

# conviction *not* culture

**WEEK 1** | *Romans 1:16-17*

## “Reasons for the Reformation”

### Introduction

Over the next few weeks, we will look at Sola Scriptura, Roman Catholic Justification, Protestant (Biblical) Justification, Communion or Eucharist, and Sufficiency of Christ.

325 – Council of Nicaea – Full deity of Jesus vs. Arianism (Jesus is God’s foremost creation).

**405 - Jerome** – scholar who translated the Bible into common Latin, the Latin Vulgate Church’s Bible for 1000 years!

430 – Augustine of Hippo dies – relationship between faith and reason, Confessions, biblical exegesis.

**800 - Frankish King Charles** declared Pope Leo III innocent of stealing church funds. Two days later, on Christmas Eve, Leo crowns him Charles Augustus. The first Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (Later called Charlemagne – French for Charles the Great)

**1054 - Great Schism** – July 16th, Pope Leo IX issues a Papal Bull (from Latin bulla, a lead seal) which was laid on the altar in the Hagia Sophia during communion. It excommunicated the Bishop of Constantinople and led to the split between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

1093 - Anselm of Canterbury – logical expression of God’s existence. Ontological Argument

1095 - Pope Urban sent the 1st crusade. Muslims were defeated after having held the city since 638.

**1215** – 4th Lateran Council (named after the Laterani family estate, which was given to the church by Constantine), doctrine of transubstantiation. Laid

the groundwork for the Inquisition, which would take place under King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella (1479-1504).

**1302** – Pope Boniface VIII issued the Papal bull, Unam Sanctam, “One Holy Church.” The Pope had authority over all of Europe’s kings. The King of France kidnapped him; one month later, he was dead. His successor, Benedict XI, was poisoned with a plate of figs. His successor, Clement V, moved the papacy to Avignon, France, where the Popes resided for roughly the next 70 years (1309-1377). It is known as the ‘Babylonian captivity of the Church’ – Totally corrupt. Bishops sold offices. Priests sold Indulgences (remission of all temporal punishment due to sins that have already been forgiven – a reduction in time spent in purgatory to remove the stains of sin). Chaucer reflects this period in “The Canterbury Tales.”

1347 – 1350 “Black Death” about 23 million or 1/3rd the population of Europe. 88% of Constantinople’s population died. 800 people a day in Paris were dying.

**1384 - John Wycliffe** – Oxford professor. The church isn’t popes, priests, or sacraments; it is the people of God who have placed their faith in Christ. The Bible should be in the people’s language so they can read it! Revolutionary! Died of a stroke.

**1400 - Jan Hus** – Bohemia (Czech Republic): People should obey the church only when it follows the Bible.

**1414-1418 – Council of Constance** – conciliarism or Church councils are supreme. On July 6, 1415, Hus was burned at the stake while singing the Psalms. The bishops also demanded that Wycliffe’s bones be exhumed and burned!

1438-1445 – Council of Florence – Pope is supreme, 7 sacraments: baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, ordination, and last rites.

**1453 – Ottoman Turks** - The Church gathered in Hagia Sophia, the Church of Holy Wisdom, for the last time. The next day, Constantinople (Istanbul) fell to the Ottoman Turks (Muslims). Hundreds of scholars fled West, carrying with them their most precious possessions: ancient Greek manuscripts. For centuries, Roman Christians had neglected the Greek authors. These manuscripts from the east sparked a rebirth and a renaissance of interest in ancient Greek rhetoric, art, and writing. Renaissance scholars stressed practical language and action, and poignant words became more important than the precise logic of scholasticism. Because these philosophers focused on practical human actions, Renaissance scholars came to be known as “humanists.” The reason this is important is that Christian humanists applied this way of thinking as they read the New Testament, which was originally written in Greek. For nearly 1000 years, scholars had been dealing with Jerome’s Latin. But now these scholars were looking at the New Testament written in Greek, and their battle cry became “back to the sources,” or “ad fontes,” to the source. Today, we study the “humanities” or human-oriented arts.

1453 – Johann Gutenberg. – The printing press made the Renaissance possible.

1492 – Discovery of the New World. Michelangelo’s “David” was unveiled in 1504/5.

**1516 – Textus Receptus** – “Received Text” – Greek Translation of the New Testament. Desiderius Erasmus – Humanist, son of an unwed teenager and an immoral village priest. A devoted Catholic demanded that the Church reform its ways. Theologians like Erasmus returned to the text

of scripture itself in its direct interpretation. The emphasis was now upon the document and the writer rather than the document and tradition.

**1483, November 10th – Luther born.** 1509 bachelor’s degree in theology. October 18, 1512, Doctor of Theology. Luther had entered the monastery hoping to find God and salvation, but his inner conflict with sin was never satisfied. Despite his most strenuous efforts, he had found neither God nor salvation. He spent hours in the confessional but was never sure he had confessed them all. He declared that he did not love God, but in fact hated him. His superior thought a trip to Rome, the Holy City, would help. Luther began the 1,600-mile round trip with great hope. Perhaps in Rome God would open the door for Martin to experience in his quest for holiness, satisfaction, and relief from his Anfechtungen, “dark night of the soul,” Satanic attacks. Everywhere Luther looked, he was horrified. Rome was chaotic and filthy; locals were urinating in public and openly patronizing prostitutes.

Scala Sancta – no proof of authenticity. Supposedly, St. Helen, the mother of Constantine, found them. A plenary indulgence was granted. Ascend the 28 steps on your knees, reciting the Pater Noster (Our Father) each time. A terrifying thought entered Luther’s mind: “What if all that I have done so obediently would not have the effect that the church so specifically, confidently, and authoritatively had said would happen, didn’t happen? What if the doctrine about who suffered in purgatory and precisely how long a person suffered in purgatory was not true? Luther had exhausted all the means the Roman church had to offer to relieve a burdened conscience, but to no avail. His own sense of sin was not alleviated. Instead, Luther, like Isaiah, had discovered himself to be a sinner amid sinners. **Rome had lost its Halo.**