

## Reformation 101

1. What is the Reformation?<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Two caveats:
    - i. Are the events that took place in Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> century a Reformation or Reformations?<sup>2</sup>
    - ii. We can look at the Reformation from different points of view: geographically, ecclesiastically, politically, economically, and culturally.
  - b. The “Protestant” Reformation is: the religious movement in the 16<sup>th</sup> century that brought theological and ecclesiastical reform to the church, culminating in split of Western Christianity between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism.
2. Why study the Reformation?
  - a. To remember God’s \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. To appreciate the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. To understand the Scriptures \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What caused the Reformation?
  - a. Political: Rise of “nation-states.”
  - b. Economic: Rise of the middle class and the dislike of money going to Rome.
  - c. Ecclesiastical:
    - i. Decline of the \_\_\_\_\_: Babylonian Captivity of the papacy and Papal Schism.
    - ii. Conciliar movement failed.
    - iii. Moral failure and \_\_\_\_\_:

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<sup>1</sup> For more on the Reformation, see: Dan Burrus, “Church History,” Lessons 10, 11, 12, lectures available at [gracelakeville.org](http://gracelakeville.org).

<sup>2</sup> For example, see: Carter Lindberg, *The European Reformations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), 13-14, 26-31.

1. Simony: buying and selling of religious offices.
  2. Nepotism: religious clergy favoring family and friends for religious office.
  3. Celibacy, concubines, and illegitimate children.
- iv. Errant doctrine and teaching:
1. Purgatory.
  2. Transubstantiation.
  3. Sacraments.
- v. Empty religious \_\_\_\_\_:
1. Little preaching from the Bible.
  2. Saint-worship and image-worship.
  3. Sale of indulgences.
- vi. Mysticism and a thirst for a direct contact with God.
- vii. Forerunners of the Reformation.
- d. Cultural
- i. Renaissance and Humanism (*ad fontes*).
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_ of the laity.
  - iii. Printing press.
- e. Summary: "The Reformation happened mainly because it could."<sup>3</sup>
4. What resulted from the Reformation?
- a. Return to biblical doctrine, specifically of salvation, summarized in the five *solas*.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> D. G. Hart, *Calvinism: A History* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2013), 2.

- i. *Sola Fide* (Faith alone): What must I do to be saved?
  - ii. *Solus Christus* (Christ alone): What must I trust?
  - iii. *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone): What must I obey?
  - iv. *Sola Gratia* (Grace alone): What must I earn?
  - v. *Soli Deo Gloria* (God's glory alone): What is the point?
- b. Two branches of Western Christianity: Roman Catholic and Protestant. Protestantism differed from Roman Catholicism in three significant ways:
- i. The supremacy of the Scripture over tradition (objective difference). [Sometimes this is called the "\_\_\_\_\_ " of the Reformation.]
  - ii. The supremacy of faith over works (subjective difference). [Sometimes this is called " \_\_\_\_\_ " of the Reformation.]
  - iii. The supremacy of the Christian people over an exclusive priesthood (ecclesiastical difference). [Sometimes this is called the "priest-hood of believers."]
- c. Protestant confessions.
  - d. Religious liberty.
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Why is the Reformation important and relevant for today?
- a. The question of ultimate religious authority.
  - b. The question of salvation.
  - c. The question of human kind's fundamental problem.
  - d. The question of the ultimate purpose in life.

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<sup>4</sup> For more on the five *solas* of the Reformation, see the sermon series "Five Solas of the Reformation," available at [gracelakeville.org](http://gracelakeville.org).

6. Is the Reformation over?
  - a. In one sense, yes.
  - b. In another sense, no.