

Canon, Creeds, & Revivals

How the Church Preserved our Christian Beliefs

Class 10 - Reformation

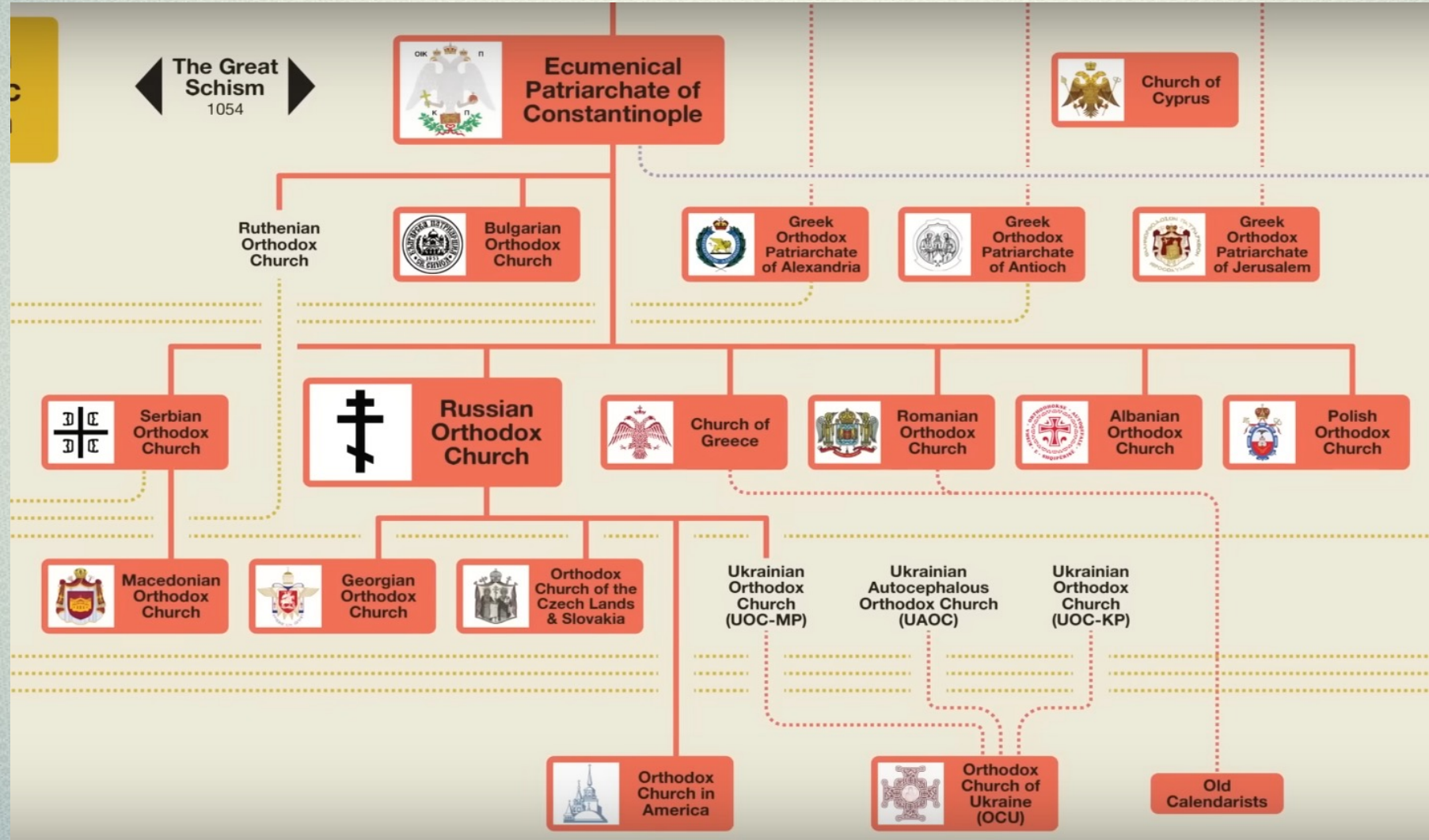
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Chalcedon Split and Great Schism

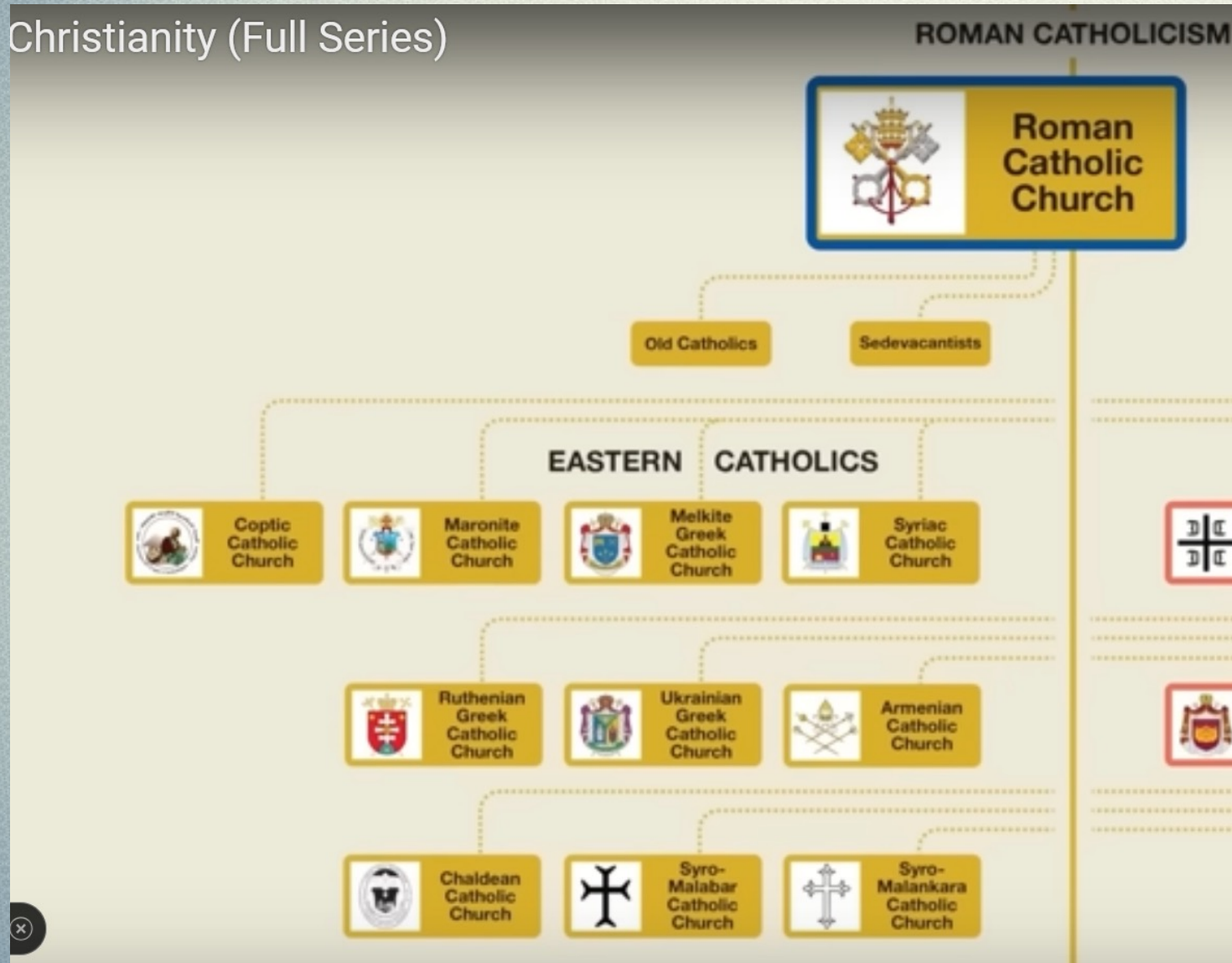
- From the original Pentarchy (4th century) to today's three branches (RC, EO, OO)
 - Rome - Roman Catholic (~1.39 billion)
 - Constantinople - Eastern Orthodox (~230 million)
 - Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem - Oriental Orthodox (60 million - Armenia, Syria, India Ethiopia, Eritrea, Coptic)
- Council of Chalcedon (451AD) between RC/EO vs OO
 - Jesus - All REJECTED Adoptionism (human then divine), Monophysitism (only divine), Nestorianism (two person), all BELIEVE Jesus is one person with two natures - fully human and fully divine
 - Jesus is “in” two natures (RC,EO) versus “of” two natures (OO). Theologically, the distinction is small. Attempts have been made for reunification (EO & OO) in 1964-90 with joint statement acknowledge each others “orthodoxy” of Christ’s nature.
- The Great Schism (1054AD) between RC and EO
 - Holy Spirit proceed from Father & the Son (Roman Catholic) OR proceeds from Father only (Eastern Orthodox).
 - Pope authority over all (Roman Catholic) or “first among equals” (Eastern Orthodox)
 - Personal Observation - Focus on life of Jesus (EO) rather than crucifixion (RC)

Eastern Orthodox - 15 “autocephalous” (equal leadership) churches



Roman Catholic

Christianity (Full Series)



- Pope is leader of entire church (1390 million)
- Latin Church is vast majority of members (99.9%)
- Eastern Catholics operate independently but under authority of Pope. (18 million)

Reformation - Martin Luther*

- **Early Years** - Born Nov. 10, 1482, eldest of 7 sons. Grew up Catholic and feared God, believing in heaven, hell, angels, saints, demons and the Devil. He was taught the Lord's Prayer, 10 commandments, and Creeds.
- **University** - Went to the most famous university in Germany, Erfurt, trained in scholasticism --- truth could not be demonstrated by reason but must be accepted by faith on the authority of the Church and the Bible (later rejected this view).
- **Graduate work** - At 21, his father, a businessman in iron pits and furnaces, sent Martin to study law. In July 1505, while he was walking, a bolt of lightning felled him and, in terror of death, he made a vow to become a monk. It bitterly disappointed his father.
- **Monk** - Luther chose the Augustinian Order for its rigorous discipline. He did not get the assurance he sought and became a disappointed, tortured soul.
 - Mass brought him terror that he, a sinner, would address the living, eternal, true God.
 - He tried mortifying his body (sleeping in the snow and hard labor).
 - He tried fasting, sometimes for days on end.
 - He gave himself to prayers and vigils beyond those required.
 - He went to confession, often daily and for hours at a time.
 - Inward peace did not come. Nothing worked.



Martin Luther (Cont.)

- **Doctorate in Theology** - Luther, in obedience to his superiors, studied theology. Did not ease his mind --- vacillated from almost hating God to mystical exaltation. He was assigned to teach theology at the new University of Wittenberg --- received his Doctorate of Theology.
- **Teaching** - Began lectures on the Psalms, Galatians, and Romans. Somewhere along the way, the phrase in Romans 1:17, “the just shall live by faith” broke through and became the guiding principle of his life --- “justification by faith alone - not by works.” His new understanding was that faith is not just by intellectual assent but by a grateful, wholehearted response to the love of God in Christ. This truth spread among his students and parishioners.
- **Wittenberg Door** - In Oct. 31, 1517, he spoke out against indulgences - pay for reduction in purgatory. He posted on the door of the church in Wittenberg 95 theses to debate the issue.
 - He protested the use of Germans to pay for construction of St. Peter.
 - Indulgences did not remove guilt; Pope has no power to do this; false sense of security.
 - Contrary to Bible and sound reason.

Martin Luther's Theology

- **Pope/Luther's Response** - Pope tried to get Augustinian order to quiet Luther. He summons (summer of 1518) to Rome to answer to charges of heresy. Through the Elector (of Saxony) Frederick, the hearing was transferred to Germany in the Diet of Augsburg. Not one to hold back, Luther published 5 tracts before the hearing stating his beliefs beyond the issue of indulgences
- **The Freedom of the Christian Mind** - Since justification is by faith alone and cannot be earned by good works, he who has this faith is freed from the bondage to the law and from seeking salvation by works. Faith does not permit immorality, for while good works do not make a good man, a good man does good works.
- **Sermons on Good works** - "Noblest of all good works is to believe in Christ". He protested limiting good works to praying in church, fasting, and giving alms. It could also include "laboring at one's trade, coming and going, eating, drinking, and sleeping and all other acts that help nourish the body or are generally useful." Christians can live in confidence, not with the view to accumulate merit and good works, but because it is his great joy to please God and to serve Him without thought of reward.

Martin Luther's Theology (Cont.)

The Babylonian Captivity of the Church

- Invalidity of Indulgences and misuse of power by the Pope.
- Communion should be available to laity. In his view, laity should be allowed to touch the elements.
- Baptism does not justify us, but it is faith to which baptism is added. Luther preferred total immersion. Baptism of infants are aids by the faith of those who bring them and through the prayer of the Church.
- There is no grounds in Scripture for the other 5 sacraments including perpetual poverty, chastity, and obedience.
- Works of priests/members of religious orders are not more important or sacred than a farmer in the field or a woman in her household duties.

Martin Luther's Theology (Cont.)

To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation Respecting the Reformation of the Christian Estate

- Attacks superiority of Popes, bishops, priests, and monks over the laity.
 - Temporal powers are ordained by for punishment of the bad and protection of the good. Clergy should not be exempt from civil authorities.
 - Pope does not have exclusive right to interpret Scripture or summon councils. Every believer, being by the fact a priest, was competent to discern what is right in matters of faith.
 - He attacked the pomp and luxury of Pope and cardinals, challenged annual payment to them, and oath of allegiance to the Roman Pontiff.
- Priest should be free to marry.
- Abolish or reduce number of processions, festivals and masses for the dead. Abolish all saints' day, keeping only Sunday.
- Elimination of begging and advocated the care by each town to care for its own poor.
- Reformation of Universities by the exultation of teaching the Bible.

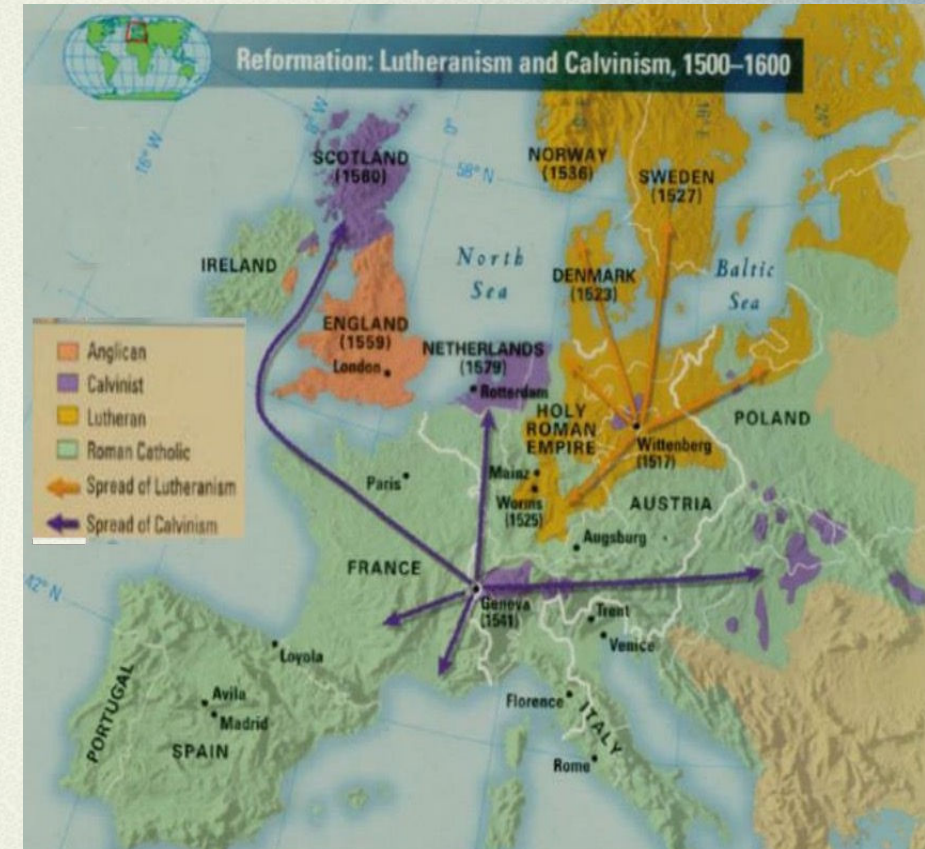
Protestantism - These tracts laid out the distinctive features of Protestantism - justification by faith alone, the priesthood of all believers, the authority of Scriptures. Through the printing press, they were given wide circulation even outside of Germany.

Diet of Worms Trial & Escape

- **Luther's Defense** - In April 1521, Luther appeared at Worms before that body and the Emperor Charles V. He was asked to repudiate his works (justification by faith alone, the priesthood of all believers, the authority of Scriptures). His response was that "his conscience was captive to the word of God and that unless he was convicted by Scripture and plain reason, for he did not accept the authority of Popes and councils since they contradicted one another, he would not recant." He added, "God help me. Amen" (possibly, "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise.")
- **Edict** - At the Diet, Charles V judged Luther to be "a limb cut off from the Church of God, an obstinate schismatic and manifest heretic" and commanded all his subjects to refuse Luther hospitality, lodging, food, or drink and to take him prisoner and turn him in. He prohibited the printing, buying, or selling of Luther's works. This edict was never enforced but remained till the end of his life.
- **Hidden in Castle** - Charles could not issue a formal decree without the consensus of the Diet. While the council discussed his fate, Luther left for Wittenberg and the Elector Frederick rather took him to Wartburg castle for safety. He remained there for 9 months disguised as a knight living in solitude. He kept busy writing a dozen books and translated the entire New Testament from Greek to German --- later the entire OT. It was one of Luther's major achievements --- giving access of the Bible to the common folk and standardizing the literary language --- more profound to the Germans than the KJV to the English.

Wittenberg and Beyond

- In March 1522, Luther took leadership of the movement in Wittenberg, at grave risk to himself, and urged moderation, and freedom of choice on controversial issues. The Reformation spread quickly and in many places.
- Luther's initiatives
 - Made much of music and emphasized it used in public worship --- chorales and choirs, singing of hymns.
 - Sermons was of first-rate importance --- preaching became prominent.
 - Education was one of his concerns --- religious training to children with catechisms and adult training.
 - He emphasized the family --- arranging marriages for Nuns and he, himself married Katherine Von Bora.
 - No compulsion should be used to induce individuals to believe.
- In 1530, Emperor Charles V sought by a conciliatory gesture to restore unity asked the Protestants to put forth their beliefs in a document. They created Augsburg Confession, a lengthy official statement of Lutheran positions.
- Luther dies in 1546. Truce was implemented by the "Peace of Augsburg" in Sept 25, 1555. Lutheranism spread especially to Denmark, Sweden, Norway, & Poland



Reformed Movement - Zwingli

- Reformed Movement began with Huldreich Zwingli (1484-1531) in Switzerland. Arose almost simultaneously with Lutheranism. Zwingli read Luther's early writing with joy and did much to further their circulation --- later belittled their influence on him.
- Zwingli stressed authority of Scripture. In Dec. 1523, he came out against monastic vows, clerical celibacy, the intercession of the saints, the existence of purgatory, the sacrificial character of the mass, and the teaching that salvation is earned by good works
- Zwingli stressed conformity with the sovereign will of God and was more intellectual in his approach. Zwingli said that one is only free from sin when his "mind trust itself unwaveringly to the death of Christ and finds rest there," that faith is born "only when a man begins to despair of himself and to see that he must trust in God alone" and that "it is perfected with a man wholly cast himself off and prostrates himself before the mercy of God alone, but in such fashion as to have entire trust in it because Christ who was given for us."¹



Zwingli and Luther

- **Disagreement over Lord's Supper** - Open separation between Luther and Zwingli came over the significance of the Lord Supper. To Luther, "This is my body" was to be taken at face value --- believers partake of Christ. Christ is actually present in the consecrated elements, even though the manner of the presence defied a fully rational explanation. To Zwingli, "Do this in memory of me" was controlling. It was primarily a memorial.
- **Attempted Joining** - Reformed movement had spread in Switzerland and Germany. Philip of Hess/Bucer attempted to join Zwingli and Luther's movement without success - First Helvetic Confession. Henry Bullinger, who was conciliatory, came nearer to the Lutheran view of the Lord's Supper gave refuge to persecuted Lutherans --- was later successful after Zwingli's death (authored the Second Helvetic Confession).
- **Death** - Zwingli perished Oct 11, 1531 in an inter-cantonal war which arose from the attempt of Zurich to force Protestant preaching upon neighboring Roman Catholic cantons.

John Calvin

- **Early Years** - John Calvin was reared in aristocratic society in comfortable circumstances. When to the University of Paris at 14, he was deeply religious and critical of any laxity in morals. He won and kept friends among the more serious students. At 19, he left Paris to study Law. His interest were those of humanism, wrote elegant Latin, learned Greek and Hebrew and publish a commentary on Seneca's De Clementia at 23.
- **Conversion** - Under the influence of an earnestly religious group in Paris, he was probably exposed to writings of Erasmus and Luther and had a sudden conversion experience but we have no details. In 1534, at 25, he left Paris, surrendered his ecclesiastical revenues, was imprisoned, freed, and found haven in Basil, Switzerland --- a recent strong Protestant center.
- **Institutes** - It was in Basil, at the age of 26, that Calvin finished and published what was probably the most influential single book of the Protestant Reformation, his Institutes of the Christian Religion. He worked it over and over again and enlarged it with a fourth and final revision in 1559, a few years before his death.



Calvin's Institutes

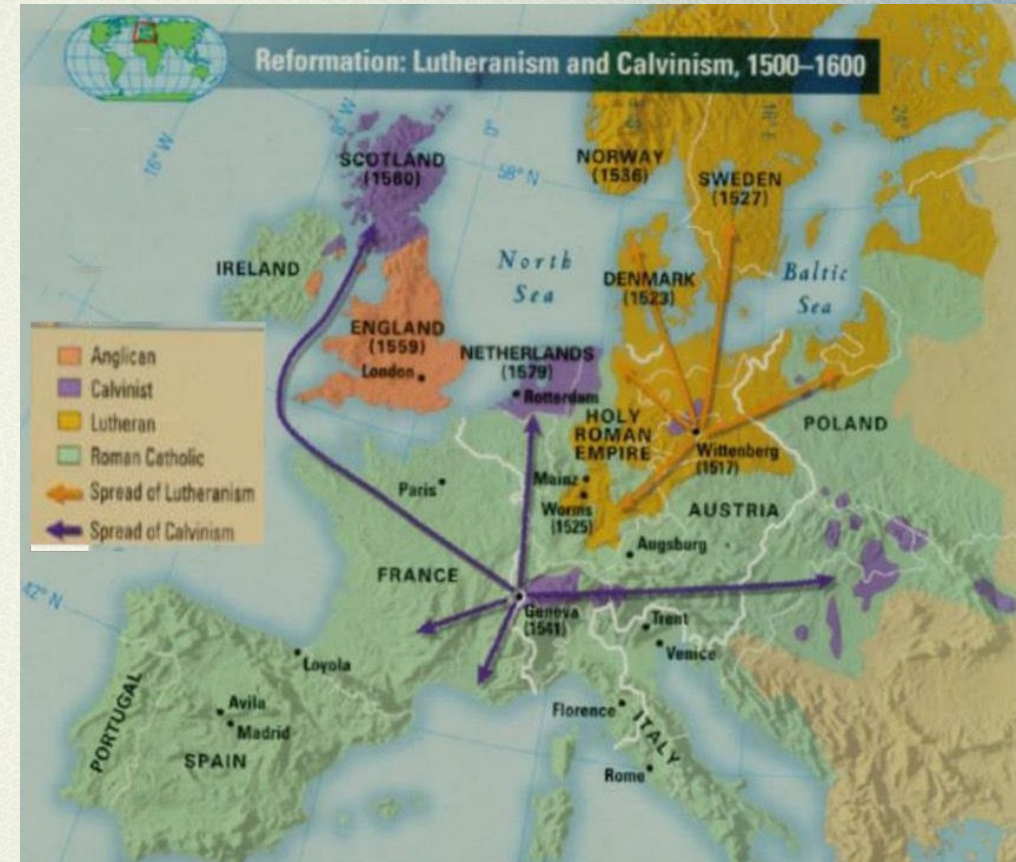
- The Institutes did not owe their prominence to the originality of the ideas they contained --- his goal was to show the Protestant principles were not novel but what is taught by the Church before it had been corrupted.
- They were clear, orderly, and comprehensive. They were the most inclusive and systematic presentation of the Christian faith presented thus far among Protestants
- The entire cosmic drama of creation, sin, and redemption under the sovereign will of God as taught in Scriptures.
- He prized the Scriptures as the authoritative record of God's dealing with the universe and man.
- Presented in four books using the Apostles' Creed as an outline
 - God the Father as creator, preserver and governor of the universe.
 - The redemption wrought by God in Christ.
 - Holy Spirit
 - The Church and civil governments.

Calvin's Institutes - Themes

- Trinity, sovereignty of God, depravity of man, Jesus, as fully man and fully God, salvation by faith alone, works as a result of grace, two sacraments.
- Church is not the institution but all believers. It is invisible known only to God.
- Divine calling in different spheres.
 - Visible church – Christian should associate themselves to it even though it is imperfect. Established Elders (bishop, pastor, minister) and Deacons. Use of elections and ordination.
 - Roles for state - state should help obtain food and drink for its citizen, prevent sacrilege against God and other offenses against religion, preserve public peace, protect property of individual, enable business to transact without fraud or injustice, and maintain a civil society. He favored elected officials, sanctioned capital punishment, and held government is not bound by the laws given to Moses but what seems right to them.
- Christian liberty - voluntary obedience to the law.
- Stressed prayer - entering into conversation with God.

Calvin's Activities

- Went to Geneva in 1541 until his death in 1564. Prominent figure with close collaboration between Church and state.
- **Innovations** – Incredibly productive. Catechism and liturgy. Helped develop weaving industry, encouraged lending with fair interest, encouraged education (Univ. of Geneva and schools). Preached, taught, wrote on matters of legislation, law enforcement, administration, commentaries of most of the Bible. Served as an example to others spreading other Reformed Churches
- **Opposition** - Michael Servetus rejected Trinity, denounced predestination, & infant baptism. Trial in Geneva for heresy. Condemned by civil authorities and condemned to death. In spite of Calvin's plea for a more merciful form of execution, he was burned at the stake (Oct 27, 1553). It was a defeat for Calvin opponents and there were no challenges to his leadership afterwards.
- **Social Improvements** - Luther and Calvin were very different in temperament. Luther, deeply emotional was molded by his soul-shaking experience - thought little of achieving an ideal social order here and now. Calvin, intellectual, clear, logical, seemed to put a minimum of emotion to his preaching and teaching --- sought to bring to actuality ideal Christian communities.
- **Joining/Spread** - In 1549, Calvin and Bullinger reach an accord on the sacraments joining followers of Zwingli with followers of Calvin in Switzerland. Reformed Church spread from Switzerland and made great strides in Netherlands and Scotland. In Scotland, it was known as Presbyterianism lead by John Knox.



John Knox - Pioneer in Church Government

- **Early Life** - John Knox studied in Scottish Universities and was ordained to the Catholic priesthood.
- **Conversion/Travels** - He converted to Protestant beliefs through an advocate George Wishart, who was later sent to the stake in 1546. After Wishart's death, he joined a group in St. Andrews castle and there preached Protestant views. He was captured, taken to France, for nineteen months was a galley prisoner, and then, released (early 1549) went to England, where the Reformation was at full tide under Edward VI. He was one of the chaplain of the king but had to flee his successor, Mary, and went to Geneva. In Geneva, he became an ardent disciple of Calvin.
- **Scotland** - He returned to Scotland in 1555 and help lead it to Reformed beliefs.
- **Book of Order** - He helped draft the First book of Discipline and later the Book of Common Order that set the organization of the Church. Parish minister were to be nominated by the people. Provision was made in the parish for lay elders and in the General Assembly. Rank and file had a much larger voice than in Parliament.



Summary – Some Takeaways

- Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Church hold to Apostle's and Nicene Creed. Small disagreement over Chalcedon Creed. They are in the family --- brothers and sisters in Christ
- Luther's struggles and courage were remarkable --- God's ***spark for the Reformation***.
 - Luther's already set out the distinct features of the Protestant thinking at his trial --- justification by faith alone, the priesthood of all believers, the authority of Scriptures.
- Reformed movement begins with Zwingli and runs parallel to Lutheranism.
- Calvin's clear, systematic, overarching approach to Scripture helped ***sustain Reformation***
 - Noteworthy – Sovereignty of God, grateful living, transform society through lay engagement
- Heinrich Bullinger unified followers of Calvin and Zwingli! --- a true peacemaker.
- John Knox helped create a ***stable system*** of church government for Presbyterians.