

Events:

Anabaptism

- In 1521, a group formed and led by Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz and others defied the Zurich magistrates. They “re-baptized” (hence their name) themselves as professing believers and refused to baptize their infant children. The magistrates forced the group to flee for their lives, and they settled in and around the Swiss area known as the Tyrol where they were tolerated and started to gain converts.
- These Anabaptists suffered persecution from both the Roman Catholic Church and many Protestant denominations.
- Jacob Hutter was a Tyrolean hat maker who led a group of these new believers to Moravia (now in the Czech Republic) where they were able to find a degree of religious tolerance for their beliefs. Hutter often traveled between Moravia and the Tyrol. On one of these trips, he was captured and subsequently tortured and burned at the stake in 1536. The Hutterites take their name from Hutter.
- Menno Simons was a Dutch peasant who was eventually ordained in the Roman Catholic Church in 1515-1516. He learned about the Anabaptists in 1531. He became convinced that infant baptism was not taught in the Scriptures, and he converted in 1536. He wrote several books defending these beliefs before dying peacefully of old age in 1561. The Mennonites take their name from Menno.
- Anabaptists follow the Schleitheim Confession, which teaches seven articles:
 - Baptism is only for those who have confessed Christ (not infants)
 - Christians who habitually sin are to be placed under “The Ban”
 - Only Christians who have been baptized may take communion
 - Christians shall not associate with non-believers
 - Pastors must remain in good repute. Their duties include teaching, discipline, the ban, and the sacraments.
 - Believers must remain non-violent because Christ was non-violent
 - No oaths should be taken because Jesus prohibited oath-swearing
- Today, Anabaptists exist as the Amish, Mennonite, Hutterite and the Brethren denominations worldwide.

Anglicanism (Church of England)

- Henry VIII (1491-1547) ruled England from 1509 (at age 17) until his death.
- He also married Catherine of Aragon (Spain) in 1509.
- He was named “Defender of the Faith” from Pope Leo X in 1521 for his writings in opposition to Martin Luther.
- Henry named Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556), who was a participant at the White Horse Inn (a gathering place for reformed discussions), as the new Archbishop of Canterbury in 1532.
- Henry divorced Catherine in 1533. The Pope refused to grant Henry the divorce, so Henry declared the Act of Supremacy in 1534, broke ties with Rome and created the Church of England (Ecclesia Anglicana).

Heroes of the Christian Faith
Lesson 17 – 11/21/2009

- Cranmer introduced the Book of Common Prayer on Pentecost in 1552 and removed many of the Roman Church symbols (icons) from the worship.
- The church retained Roman Catholic practices but took on a few reformed ideas, so it is sometimes referred to as “Reformed Catholic”.
- The Thirty-Nine Articles, which set forth Anglican beliefs, were finalized in 1571. In summary, they include:
 - Articles I-VIII deal with the nature of the Trinity, Scripture and the essential creeds
 - Articles IX-XVIII deal with personal religion of sin, justification by faith, works as an outgrowth of faith and role of Church and the sacraments
 - Articles XIX-XXXI deal with public worship, the institutional church, councils, worship, ministry and the sacraments
 - Articles XXXII-XXXIX deal with clerical celibacy, excommunication and church traditions not covered elsewhere
- The Anglican sacraments are similar to the Roman Catholic sacraments
 - There are seven (like the Catholics) – two “ordained of Christ our Lord in the Gospel” and five “commonly called sacraments that are not to be counted for sacraments of the Gospel”.
 - Anglicans believe that baptism is a saving grace
 - Eucharistic views vary all the way from sacramental union (Luther) or transubstantiation (Catholic) in the “High Church” to memorial (Zwingli) or spiritual (Reformed) in the “Low Church”.
- Richard Hooker (1554-1600), who wrote several books, was instrumental in helping formulate Anglican beliefs. He defined sacrament as “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace”.
- The Anglican Community today consists of the Church of England, the Church of Ireland, the American Episcopal Church, the Scottish Episcopal Church and others. It is considered the third largest Christian communion worldwide after the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox.

Roman Catholicism

- Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)
 - He lived in northern Spain where he was badly wounded in battle.
 - He began his conversion while recuperating and reading about the lives of the saints and of Christ.
 - He lived ascetically for several years – barbed girdle, long fasting, chastity and poverty.
 - He formed the Society of Jesus, which was approved by Pope Paul III in 1540. He added a new vow – particular loyalty to the pope.
 - He codified his system of training in his book Spiritual Exercises.

Heroes of the Christian Faith
Lesson 17 – 11/21/2009

- Society of Jesus (Jesuits)
 - Not monastic – Jesuits lived energetically “in” the world without being “of” the world – trying to be all things to all men (1 Corinthians 9:22).
 - Jesuits became the pope’s new “soldiers” – converting the heathen and re-converting the Protestants.
 - Jesuits were instrumental in taking the gospel to India, China and Japan (Francis Xavier – 1506-1552) and to the Americas where they were the only force preventing the conquerors from enslaving the natives (for which they quickly fell out of favor in Spain and Portugal).
 - Jesuits were instrumental in forming and leading the Council of Trent.
 - Today the Jesuits are the largest Catholic order (over 19,000 members), and their emphases are missions, social justice, human rights and higher education (with 50 universities in the United States).
- Council of Trent (1545-1547, 1551-1552, 1562-1563)
 - The Catholic Church did not react immediately to the Protestant threat.
 - Several decades of political fighting between the pope and the kings of the empire and of France prevented an early response.
 - Finally, two Jesuits – Diego Laynez and Alfonso Salmeron – led it in order to move the church toward “the correct churchly attitude” 28 years after Martin Luther’s 95 theses.
 - Considered by many to be the most important council between Nicaea (325) and Vatican II (1962-1965).
 - Almost everything that the Protestants believed was vigorously and violently rejected by the council:
 - Christians must *perform* good works (as opposed to *faith alone*) lest they become lazy and indifferent
 - Christians must *cooperate* with God (as opposed to *grace alone*) to avoid what Loyola called “the poison that destroys freedom”
 - Christians must *obey* the teaching of the church (as opposed to *scripture alone*) as the essential interpreter of the Bible

Audio CD: #6 – Martin Luther (Part II)

Discussion

- What can we learn from Luther’s example in Worms about how to face our own trials?
- What other stories about Martin Luther’s life have you heard?