

# THE REFORMATION AND BIBLICAL COUNSELING

Dr. Woody Church

- I. The Beginning of Reformation
  - a. Context of medieval period
    1. Political – Holy Roman Emperor and controlled by Pope
    2. Cultural – Renaissance and Enlightenment
    3. Social Economic – Feudal Lords and Vassals or Fiefs
    4. Church – Only one-Roman Catholic (Medieval Roman Catholic theology)
  - b. Pre-reformation
    1. Black Plague
    2. Early Reformation
      - a) John Wycliffe
      - b) John Huss
      - c) Savonarola
      - d) Erasmus
    3. Printing Press - Gutenberg
- II. The Reformers – not a revolution, but a reform of corrupt church to the teaching of Christ and Salvation; back to Scriptures.
  - a. Martin Luther
    1. Lightning bolt experience
    2. Visit to Rome and his crisis of faith
    3. Tower experience and Romans 1:16 & 17
  - b. Ulrich Zwingli
  - c. John Calvin
  - d. John Knox
- III. The match that lit the fire for Reformation
  - a. Indulgences – John Tetzel – became famous for selling these and debated Luther after posting the 95 Theses.
  - b. 95 Theses on door of cloister at Wittenberg
  - c. Luther's doctor's degree

- IV. Heart of Reformation back to Bible and therefore back to center of Bible – the Gospel
  - a. The core of the Gospel in 5 “solas”
    1. Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone
    2. Sola Gratia – Grace Alone
    3. Sola Fide – Faith Alone
    4. Solus Christus – Christ Alone
    5. Sola Deo Gloria – For the Glory of God Alone
  
- V. Without these battles (500 years ago) there would be no Biblical Counseling in local churches and no Protestant denominations.
  - a. Compare major differences  
SEE (cf chart # 41) *Chronological and Background Charts of Chester Hester*
  
  - b. Implications for Biblical Counseling
    1. Doctrine of Scripture
    2. Common Grace
    3. Noetic effects of Sin
  
  - c. Applications for Biblical Counseling
    1. Sufficiency of Scripture for Doctrine
    2. Sufficiency of Scripture for living the Christian life

# 41. Theological Issues – Protestant vs. Catholic

AREA	ISSUE	PROTESTANT POSITION	CATHOLIC POSITION
SCRIPTURE	SUFFICIENCY	Sola Scriptura	Tradition of equal authority with Scripture
	APOGRYPHA	Rejected	Accepted
ANTHROPOLOGY	ORIGINAL SIN	Total depravity/guilt inherited from Adam	Corruption & predisposition to evil inherited from Adam
	HUMAN WILL	In bondage to sin	Free to do spiritual good
SOTERIOLOGY	PREDESTINATION	Rooted in God's decrees	Rooted in God's foreknowledge
	ATONEMENT	Christ's death; a substitutionary penal sacrifice	Christ's death; the merit for blessings or salvation – blessings passed on to sinners through sacraments
	GRACE OF GOD	Common grace given to all; saving grace given to elect	Prevenient grace, given at baptism, enabling one to believe; efficacious grace cooperating with the will, enabling one to obey
	GOOD WORKS	Produced by the grace of God, unworthy of merit of any kind	Meritorious
	REGENERATION	Work of the Holy Spirit in the elect	Grace infused at baptism
	JUSTIFICATION	Objective, final, judicial act of God	Forgiveness of sins received at baptism, may be lost by committing mortal sin, regained by penance
ECCLESIOLOGY	CHURCH & SALVATION	Distinction between visible and invisible church	Outside the (visible) church there is no salvation
	SACRAMENTS	Means of grace only as received by faith	Convey justifying and sanctifying grace <i>ex opere operato</i>
	PRIESTHOOD	All believers are priests	Mediators between God and man
	TRANSUBSTANTIATION	Rejected	Affirmed
ESCHATOLOGY	PURGATORY	Denied	affirmed