



THE REFORMATION (PART 2)





ULRICH ZWINGLI (1484-1531)

Ulrich Zwingli was born in Switzerland in 1484. In Vienna and Basle he studied philosophy and theology. As a clergyman in various areas of Switzerland, he always endeavoured to base his sermons on the Bible and statements of the Church Fathers. In 1519 he became a minister in Zurich. Here he inwardly turned to Martin Luther's views; however, this did not become noticeable until 1522. Backed by Zurich city council, Zwingli supported measures for church renewal based on the principle that only what, according to his opinion, had been biblically substantiated should remain. For him this meant, for example,

- sermons based on the Bible,
- banning pictures in churches,
- renouncing the fast, and
- abolishing processions.

In addition he saw to it that schools and institutions were founded to care for the poor.

In 1529 Ulrich Zwingli had a discussion with Martin Luther in Marburg, Germany, about the Eucharist (Communion). Both had different opinions on this subject. Luther stressed Christ's incarnate presence in Communion, whereas Zwingli interpreted the words of consecration as being purely symbolic. Since then Lutheran and Reformed Protestantism have developed separately. Zwingli's followers later joined forces with Calvin's followers.

In 1531 war had broken out between the Catholic and Protestant cantons. As chaplain, Zwingli accompanied the Protestant army. It was defeated in the battle near Kappel, and Zwingli was killed.

JOHN CALVIN (1509–1564)



John Calvin was born in France in 1509. While studying law in Paris, he became acquainted with Luther's writings and became a follower of the Reformation. As a result, he had to flee Paris in 1535. First he went to Basle, Switzerland. Without having studied theology, he was active as an evangelical preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1536 on. In 1538 he was expelled on account of his strict morality. In 1541 he was recalled, and from then on established strict church discipline with the support of the secular authorities. He demanded

- a way of life and state order based on biblical principles, and
- harsh punishment for violating church order or biblical commandments.

Calvin was active in Geneva until his death in 1564. The churches that go back to him are called "reformed".

According to Calvin's teachings, success in temporal life is a sign that man has been chosen by God.

EXERCISE 1



Take turns reading the following text!

The most famous sausage in church history

It was 9 March 1522, the first Sunday of Lent (the period of fasting before Easter). In Zurich a group had gathered together for a meal in the home of Christoph Froschauer, a printer. Despite the fact that it was Lent, during which eating meat was forbidden, sausage was served. Certain statements made by Ulrich Zwingli in his sermons had been interpreted to mean that the church's rules of fasting did not have to be taken so seriously.

For many believers who heard about this, the meal with sausage was a provocation although, in private, many citizens of Zurich had also otherwise ceased to observe the rules of fasting long ago.

Ulrich Zwingli was also present at the meal in the Froschauer's home. Supposedly he did not eat the sausage, however.

Froschauer and his colleagues justified their violation of the fasting rules by claiming that, given the strain of their profession, one would not be able to have enough by eating only "mash". That was probably just an excuse, however. In reality this was about renouncing church doctrine, which, in this form, could not be substantiated biblically.

Once this violation became known, Zurich city council immediately ordered an investigation. In a sermon at the end of March, Zwingli stood up for the violators of the fast: "If you like to fast, then do so. If you would prefer not to eat meat, then do not eat it. But leave the Christian his freedom!" Zwingli reworked the sermon containing this remark, and in April had it published under the title "*Vom Erkießen und Fryheit der Spysen*" (On the selection and freedom of food). It was his first reforming work. With it, violation of the fast became an open forum. Proponents and opponents of the rules of fasting took action against one another. They not only swore at one another, but gave each other thrashings as well.

Zurich council appointed a commission of clergymen who were to settle the matter of fasting by issuing a report. The clergymen agreed with their colleague, Zwingli, but recommended that violations of fasts should remain punishable for the sake of order. A year later all laws relating to this matter were repealed. Thereby the city of Zurich's cantonal parliament had, by its own decision, adopted Zwingli's view, and from then on only accepted the Bible as the basis for church activity. They had broken with a tradition of the Catholic Church.

EXERCISE 2



On this map you will find the main areas into which the churches of the Geneva reformation spread. List the countries!

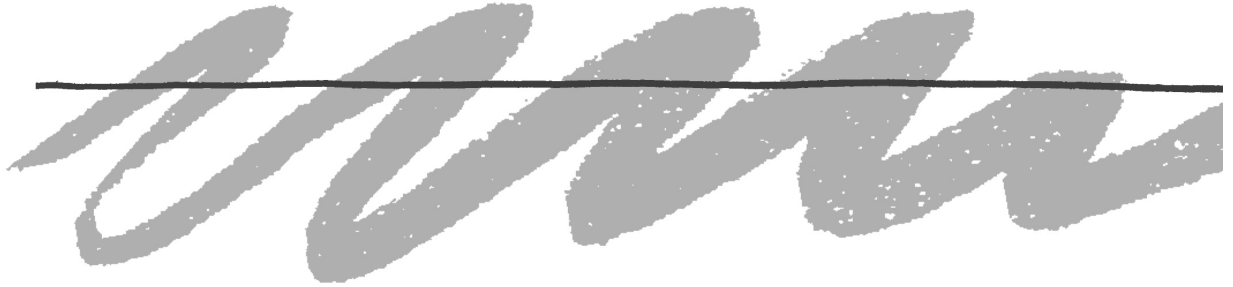


EXERCISE 3



Read the texts comparing the different denominations and complete the section concerning the New Apostolic Church!

	The Roman Catholic Church	Church of England (Anglican)
Origin:	From the post-apostolic episcopal church.	Through a quarrel between Henry VIII and the Pope.
Sacraments:	Seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist (Communion), Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage and Holy Orders	Two sacraments: Baptism and Communion.
Doctrine of the Eucharist (Communion):	Through consecration, bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ. Hereby, Christ's sacrifice is consummated anew, without His blood having to be shed again (the Sacrifice of the Mass). As a rule, the congregation receives only the bread, but the priest also drinks the wine.	Partially Calvinistic, partially, Lutheran (see right).
Church Leadership:	The Pope.	The British monarch; the highest clergyman is the Archbishop of Canterbury.
Peculiar Features:	Monasticism, auricular confession, indulgences, veneration of saints, and celibacy of priests.	Roman Catholic-style church services. Women may hold ecclesiastical offices.



The Churches of the Reformation	
Evangelical Lutheran Churches	Evangelical Reformed Churches
Through Martin Luther.	Through Swiss and German reformers (such as Zwingli, Calvin, and Melancthon).
Two sacraments: Baptism and Communion.	Two sacraments: Baptism and Communion.
The body and blood of Christ are joined to the bread and wine through consecration.	Various: According to Zwingli , the bread and wine are outward symbols of the body and the blood of Christ. According to Calvin , Jesus Christ's spiritual presence is contained in them.
No standard leadership, but synods (church councils).	No standard leadership.
Communion is not celebrated in every service. Women may hold ecclesiastical offices.	Communion is celebrated only a few times per year. Women may hold ecclesiastical offices.

EXERCISE 3



CONTINUED

The New Apostolic Church	
Origin:	It emerged from the Catholic Apostolic congregation in Hamburg in 1836. The Apostle ministry given by Jesus Christ is active in the New Apostolic Church.
Sacraments:	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Doctrine of the Eucharist (Communion):	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Church Leadership:	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Peculiar Features:	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>