

1. During and toward the end of the "Dark Ages"

- a) papal religious authority was complete
- b) it wielded significant political power as well as often resorting to military warfare
- c) the masses were totally ignorant of the Bible
- d) the invention of the printing press would powerfully change things
- e) Renaissance humanism and a de-emphasis on religion while emphasizing secularism were impacting the situation as well

2. Moral corruption in the church was a major factor in the Reformation

- a) simony = church offices bought and sold
- b) many received salaries for which they did not work
- c) some held several such "positions"
- d) indulgences = selling to people the church's forgiveness of their and loved ones' sins
- e) nepotism = favouring family members for prestigious and lucrative positions
- f) sexual immorality of popes and clergy
 - a number of popes kept mistresses and had children out of wedlock
 - many priests openly kept concubines
- g) many priests were virtually illiterate so the abuse of their power was rampant

3. The goals of the Reformers can be summarized as the "FIVE SOLAS", their five great foundational rallying cries:

a) **SOLA SCRIPTURA (Scripture alone)**

- ✚ The Catholic Church taught
 - the foundation for faith and practice is a combination of
 - i) the Scriptures
 - ii) sacred tradition
 - iii) teachings of the pope and bishops

- 📖 The Reformers said
 - our foundation is Scripture alone

b) **SOLA GRATIA (Grace alone)**

- ✚ The Catholic Church taught
 - salvation is through a combination of
 - i) God's grace
 - ii) merits by penance & good works
 - iii) superfluous merits of others

- 📖 The Reformers said
 - salvation is by God's grace alone

c) **SOLA FIDE (Faith alone)**

- ✚ The Catholic Church taught
 - justification is by a combination of
 - i) faith
 - ii) works that we produce

- 📖 The Reformers said
 - justification is by faith alone

d) **SOLUS CHRISTUS (Christ alone)**

- ✚ The Catholic Church taught
 - we are saved by the merits of Christ and the saints
 - we approach God through all those who pray and intercede for us
 - i) Christ
 - ii) the saints
 - iii) Mary

- 📖 The Reformers said
 - we are saved by Christ alone
 - we come to God through Christ alone

e) **SOLI DEO GLORIA (Glory to God alone)**

- ✚ The Catholic Church taught
 - glory for a sinner's salvation can be attributed partly to
 - i) Christ
 - ii) Mary and the saints
 - iii) the sinner himself

- 📖 The Reformers said
 - the only true gospel is the one that gives all the glory to God alone

4. One of the less favourable outcomes of the Reformation was the huge number of Protestant denominations that only seems to grow as the years pass