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| <p>1. The Catholic Church responded to the Reformation with a counter-reformation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>it reformed moral failures – renewed piety</li><li>the Council of Trent (1545 – 1563) responded to the reformers by declaring<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the "SOLA" doctrines ANATHEMA</li><li>the Bible is the infallible Word of God</li><li>the church infallibly interprets the Bible</li><li>the church's traditions are also infallible</li></ul></li><li>The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) formed in 1533 became the primary arm of<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Catholic education</li><li>Catholic missionary expansion</li></ul></li><li>The Roman Inquisition (est. 1542)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>consisted of cardinals whose task was to maintain and defend the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church</li><li>was the final court of appeals in all trials of heresy</li></ul></li></ol> <p>2. The reformers: although they agreed on the five "SOLAS", their differences in convictions concerning baptism, church governance, relationship of church to state etc.gave rise to the various traditions within Protestantism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lutheran founder: Martin Luther</li><li>Reformed founder: John Calvin</li><li>Anabaptist founder: Ulrich Zwingli et al</li><li>Anglican founder: King Henry VIII</li></ol> | <p>3. The Reformation caused many civil wars to break out over which religion a country should adopt – e.g. 30 Years War (1618-1648)</p> <p>4. Simultaneously the Age of Reason had introduced a new method of inquiry and learning → doubt everything and attain absolute certainty in all areas of life through science and human reasoning</p> <p>5. This modern approach to philosophy was also applied to the study and interpretation of the Bible<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>it was called Higher Criticism</li><li>it was totally humanistic and naturalistic</li><li>it dismissed totally any supernatural or mystical events or teachings</li></ul></p> <p>6. Like a pendulum, influences on Christianity swung back and forth between an emphasis on doctrine and human experience; and between the mind and the heart and soul</p> <p>7. As the pendulum slowly comes to a stop the present last days church finds itself<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>turning away from many core biblical doctrines</li><li>spreading a social gospel rather than the one true life-giving gospel of the cross</li></ul></p> | <p>8. Presently the trend within the church is "Progressive Christianity"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>* its characteristics are:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>spiritual vitality and expressiveness<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>meditation, prayer and lively worship</li><li>non-Christian rituals and techniques</li></ul></li><li>insistence on a Christianity with intellectual integrity<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>it questions Christian beliefs and traditions in order to reframe, reject or renew them</li></ul></li><li>rejection of traditional gender boundaries</li><li>belief that Christianity is not the best or the only true religion</li><li>a strong passion for environmentalism, social justice and peace advocacy</li></ol></li><li>** signs that a church might be becoming progressive are:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Bible is less and less esteemed</li><li>Feelings, opinions and experiences are valued above objective truth</li><li>Historic terms are re-defined</li><li>Core biblical doctrines are open for re-interpretation</li><li>The gospel message is shifted to social justice from sin and redemption</li></ol></li></ol> |
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\* Grassroots Progressive Christianity

\*\* 5 Signs ... Alisa Childers (see resources)