



Week 2: *THE RADICAL REFORMATION*

INTRODUCTION – The Reformers

- Martin Luther (1483 – 1546)
 - Ulrich (Huldrych) Zwingli (1484 – 1531)
 - John Calvin (1509 – 1564)
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|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| ❖ | <i>Sola Scriptura</i> | (Scripture Alone) |
| ❖ | <i>Sola Fide</i> | (Faith Alone) |
| ❖ | <i>Sola Gratia</i> | (Grace Alone) |
| ❖ | <i>Solus Christus</i> | (Christ Alone) |
| ❖ | <i>Soli Deo Gloria</i> | (Glory to God Alone) |

DINE IN – The Radical Reformers

Swiss Protestants...

- Conrad Grebel (1498-1526)
- Felix Manz (1498-1527) – the first martyr – death by “third baptism”
- George Blaurock (1491-1529)

German Catholics...

- Michael & Margareta Sattler (1490-1527)

Dutch Catholics...

- Menno Simons (1496-1561)

Schleitheim Confession (1527)

We Agree:

1. **Baptism:** To baptize only those who place voluntary faith in Christ.
2. **Confrontation:** To practice the discipline of confrontation leading to reconciliation or removal (as opposed to torture and execution) for those who hold opposing views.
3. **Communion:** To practice the Lord’s Supper (the Eucharist) in memory of Christ (not as a sacrament to receive God’s grace).
4. **Separation:** To be separate from the world of evil, sin, and violence, including all Protestant and Catholic churches to the extent they embrace the ways of the world.
5. **Leadership:** That Pastors (not priests) shall be chosen by local churches (not appointed by a dominating hierarchy) and will lead as servants of the congregation.
6. **The Sword:** To reject all violence, whether for attack, defense, or punishment and to refuse employment by the state, who bears the sword outside of the perfection of Christ.
7. **The Oath:** Not to swear oaths of loyalty or word-keeping, which may be necessary for adversaries but not for brothers and sisters working together for the common good.

Re. Article 2 – *Caring enough to confront...*

Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1;
2 Thessalonians 3:6; 14-15; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 1 Timothy 5:19-20; Titus 3:10

TAKE OUT – I’ll Have That to Go Please

If we have something wrong between us and another believer, even if we think they are clearly in the wrong in a significant way, our job is to talk to them and work toward reconciliation. If they refuse to listen, we don’t give up. We involve other believers until we succeed in reconciliation or the church stands united in their rebuke of that person. Doing nothing, allowing resentment to grow under the surface, eroding your soul and the fabric of church unity, is not an option. We must care enough to confront.

Luke 14:27

CONCLUSION – How’s Your *Gelassenheit*?

Luke 14:27; Galatians 6:14

For Further Research...

BOOKS

- Christian Attitudes to War, Peace, and Revolution (John Howard Yoder)
- The Anabaptist Story: An Introduction to Sixteenth-Century Anabaptism (William Roscoe Estep)
- From Anabaptist Seed (C.A. Snyder)
- A Contemporary Anabaptist Theology: Biblical, Historical, Constructive (Thomas N. Finger)
- Pilgrim Aflame (Myron S. Augsburger)

MOVIE

- The Radicals

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. What was your knowledge and/or experience of the Anabaptists before this week?
2. The Church may not use physical violence any more, but many Christians still project violence through their angry attitudes, ungracious words, and punishing actions. a) Have you seen examples of this in contemporary Christianity? b) Can you think of examples in your own life?
3. The Radical Reformers regularly wrote letters to other Protestant reformers to challenge them and/or encourage them to consider Scripture. In one letter, Conrad Grebel wrote: *“The gospel and its adherents are not to be protected by the sword, nor should they protect themselves. True believing Christians are sheep among wolves, sheep for the slaughter. They use neither worldly sword nor war, since killing has ceased with them entirely...In time we too will see persecution come upon us.”* What are your thoughts about this?

Look to the Book...

4. Often we think of the New Testament teaching on “Church Discipline” or “Caring Confrontation” only in negative terms (e.g., it’s about excommunication, shunning, disfellowshipping, banning, etc.). But the New Testament emphasis is always on finding creative non-violent ways to work toward peace and reconciliation. Read over the Scripture passages listed regarding Caring Confrontation. For each passage talk about: a) What idea stands out to you the most and why. b) How the passage encourages our work toward unity. c) What this might look like in practice today.

So What?...

5. Review **Matthew 18:15**. Is there anyone in your life that you need to live out this verse with? If so, what is your game plan for doing so this week?

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