



## COURSE CONTENT DOCUMENT

### TITLE: Church History - The Reformation

*Designation: Core Requirement for All Layreaders*

---

#### Overview

This course considers only the English phase of the 16th century Europe-wide Reformation. The Reformation was above all a theological event, that is, a reform of the way people understood their Faith. Faith in this sense means how people understood God's view of them, what their response to God was to be and how their relation with God was to be understood and lived out. Historians have attempted to sum up the Reformation by calling it a profound attempt to return to a Gospel based New Testaments style of Christianity. As with all such generalizations this one is both true as well as misleading. Every age considers itself striving to be true to the Gospel.

The unique form Reformation took in England involved actions by monarchs, Parliament, the official Church and individuals which resulted in the English Church breaking away from both the jurisdiction of the Pope and the received heritage of western Christendom. Prior to the Reformation, there was only one church in Western Europe - the Catholic Church. Everyone belonged to this trans-national Church administered by the Pope from Rome. National churches like the Church of England and denominations such as Lutheran and Anglican did not exist. There was only one church, everyone belonged to it, worshipped in its buildings and this membership was crucial to their sense of who they were.

The Reformation involved changes in politics, religion, and in what was seen, heard and done inside all church buildings. Churches in 1500 included statues, many paintings, stained glass windows, no hymns, no pews - everyone standing and a priest behind the rood screen saying the Latin Mass. By 1600, the rood screen had been removed completely, all the statues and paintings had been smashed and/or burned along with much of the stained glass, as well, both priest and the Latin Mass were gone. A minister in very plain robes read Morning Prayer and Litany from the English **Book of Common Prayer** as well as a sermon from a Government approved book of Homilies. A large English Bible was chained to the Lectern. It was commonplace to call the pope, the antichrist and to be an English Roman Catholic was a seditious and treasonous offence punishable by death. How such a transformation came about is the story this course seeks to tell.

## Objectives

On completion of this course and as a layreader, you will be able to:

1. describe the terms Absenteeism, pluralism and Peter Pence
2. identify why church services in the first half of the 1500's needed reform
3. discuss the jurisdictional reforms made during Henry VIII's reign
4. list practical service reforms accomplished during the reign of Edward VI
5. state how Bloody Queen Mary attempted to turn back the clock to Roman obedience and why her efforts failed.
6. describe the Elizabethan Settlement of religion's *Via Media* and why both her R C subjects and the more puritan-minded clergy could not accept it
7. identify the two books which were the pillars of Elizabethan Church life and explain the significance and role of the 39 Articles of Religion.

## Reading Assignment

Church History: The Reformation by the Rev'd Canon Dr. Ross Hebb (attach link to document)

## Video Assignment

View the Church History layreader video sessions with Dr. Hebb (attach link to document)

1. Session 1: Why a Reformation of the Church (approximately 1 hour)
2. Session 2: Was it all Henry and his hormones? (approximately 1 hour)
3. Session 3: What actually changed and what did not change? (approximately 1 hour)

## Practical Assignment

1. Review the course questions at the end of each section of Dr. Hebb's notes (Church History; The Reformation) and find the answers as you read the reading assignment or as you listen to the videos. If you are in a small group choose three or four points to discuss.
2. Complete online multiple choice test for proof of course completion (provide link here) and send to the Warden of Layreaders.

## Pause and Consider

Would the Reformation in England have resulted with a separation from Rome without the intervention of Henry the VIII?

## Supplementary Resources

### BOOKS

- A History of the Church in England by JRH Moorman, 1952. The easiest reading work on the subject. Find it second hand on the Internet @ Amazon.com, Bookfinder or ABE.
- The English Reformation 2nd ed., AG Dickens, 1986.
- A Brief History of the English Reformation, by Derek Wilson, (2006) 464 pages.
- Reformation: Europe's House Divided: 1490-1700 Diarmaid MacCulloch, 2003, 708 pages. A detailed work on the Reformation as a significant phase in the development of European history and civilization.
- Saints, Sacrilege & Sedition Eamon Duffy, 2012 - A lament for the artistic and architectural losses of the Reformation.

### WEBSITE RESOURCES

- The book of Homilies; all are here for perusal and review by topic  
<http://www.anglicanlibrary.org/homilies/index.htm>
- A sermon by Bishop Latimer a few years before his burning at the stake by Queen Mary  
<http://www.anglicanlibrary.org/latimer/card/sermon06.htm>
- Description of execution by burning at the stake of Bishop's Latimer and Ridley under Queen Mary  
<http://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books/Foxes%20Book%20of%20Martyrs.pdf>

### ADDITIONAL READING (Recommended by Layreader Rod Langis)

- The Church in History by B.K. KUIPER, SCI PUBLICATIONS Christian Schools International Curriculum Department, AM. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- Church History in Plain Language by Bruce L. Shelley (Updated 2nd edition - Foreword by Mark Noll)