

MARTIN LUTHER



Founded the Protestant movement in 1517, when he nailed the 95 Thesis's on the castle church door in Wittenberg

Martin Luther was at the center of the storm that named the 16th century the period of "Reformation"

His views changed western Christianity to such an extent that by the end of his life there existed competing conceptions as to how a person ought to respond to the divine!

Few in history have been the object of more intense condemnation and praise.

Biography

- Born 1483 Saxony
 - ↳ His father was a miner. A stern, rugged character. Verbally abrasive and prone to rage
 - ↳ Mom was very religious and modest
- Young Martin Luther runs away to flee the violence and abuse; joys of childhood were unknown to him. Returns, and abuse continues
 - ↳ Age 18, begins the university of Erfurt. Studies law at the insistence of his father.
- Age 28, Luther suddenly and unexpectedly entered an Augustan Monastery in Erfurt in 1505
 - ↳ At the core of Luther's intense anxiety was a preoccupation with his own salvation
 - ↳ He grew up at a time when the image of God was an all-knowing judgmental figure.
- Went to Rome. Angered by what he saw, particularly on the Indulgences
 - ↳ Priests sell "indulgences" for money to wipe away sin
- 1517 nailed the '95 Thesis' to the church door!
- The reformation had its origin in the question recorded in the New Testament: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"
 - ↳ The Reformation: a major movement within Western Christianity in 16th-century Europe that posed a religious and political challenge to the Catholic Church and in particular to papal authority, arising from what were perceived to be errors, abuses, and discrepancies by the Catholic Church. The Reformation was the start of Protestantism and the split of the Western Church into Protestantism and what is now the Roman Catholic Church
 - ↳ Martin Luther's writings present us with the portrait of a person in a state of profound struggle with exactly that issue, a struggle between two worlds
 - ↳ Goodness v evil, the divine v the demonic, light v darkness
- Confronts religious figure at the Diet of Worms
- Died 1546 Saxony. Possible of a stroke



Philosophy (major ideas)

Human nature is corrupt, weak, self-centered and in a state of rebellion from God; the fruit of the fall from grace is death

The Catholic priesthood, monasticism and Canon law are rejected as human institutions that make the false claim to control the spirit of God.

God's laws show sinners their distance from God, and arouse a desire for redemption

The foremost vehicle of God's saving word is the bible, which presents the whole of the good news for human salvation

In the process of redemption one can do nothing but have faith, an absolute trust and response to God's words. Human merit and good works are rejected

Believed that priests/churches were not needed for people to communicate with God.