

Chapter 12 The Reformation of Christianity

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Catholic Church faced challengers who were upset with the behavior of Catholic clergy and with church practices.
2. Martin Luther urged reform in the Catholic Church, but he eventually broke away from the church.
3. Other reformers built on the ideas of early reformers to create their own churches.



HSS 7.9

Students analyze the historical developments of the Reformation.

Key Terms and People

Reformation the reform movement against the Roman Catholic Church

indulgence a document sold by the church, excusing people from penalties for a sin they had committed

purgatory in Catholic theology, a place where souls went before going to heaven

Martin Luther priest who criticized the church abuses and started the Reformation

Protestants those who protested against the Catholic Church

John Calvin reformer who taught that common people should have a say in church policy

King Henry VIII English king who started the Church of England

Section Summary

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH FACES CHALLENGERS

By the late Renaissance some people began complaining about the Roman Catholic Church. This led to a movement called the **Reformation**.

During the Middle Ages the Roman Catholic Church had become one of the richest institutions in Europe, partly because it was exempt from paying taxes. Now many claimed that the church had grown too rich. Some criticized priests for not even knowing basic church teachings. Others felt that church officials were too involved in politics and neglected religious duties.

The sale of **indulgences** was a serious problem. The church claimed the indulgence did not forgive a

"Reformation" is a noun. What verb does it build on?

What is an indulgence?

Section 1, continued

person for sins, but reduced the punishment that a person would receive for sins in **purgatory**.

MARTIN LUTHER URGES REFORM

In 1517 a priest named **Martin Luther** nailed a list of 95 complaints about the church to the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany. The document criticized many church practices, especially the sale of indulgences. Luther's complaints angered Pope Leo X, who branded Luther a heretic and excommunicated him.

Luther's ideas eventually led to a split in the Catholic Church. Luther thought that anyone could have a direct relationship with God. He called for a priesthood of all believers. Those who sided with Luther and protested against the church became known as **Protestants**. Some of those who followed Luther's teachings founded their own church and became known as the Lutherans. Luther's ideas appealed to some nobles. The support of these nobles soon made Lutheranism the dominant church in northern Germany.

Underline the sentence that tells how the pope responded to Luther's protest.

Define "Protestant."

OTHER REFORMERS

William Tyndale, an English professor, thought that everyone should be able to read the Bible. Tyndale's translation of the Bible into English led to his execution. **John Calvin** taught predestination, the idea that God knew who would be saved even before they were born. **King Henry VIII** of England started a new church, the Church of England, because the pope would not allow him to divorce and remarry.

Why did King Henry VIII start a new church?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Imagine how you might feel if you were Martin Luther, pinning his complaints to the church door. Think of something you care strongly about and write a list of things that you would like to change. Your list does not have to contain 95 items, but it should have at least 10. **HSS Analysis Skills CR 2, CR 4**