



Introduction: One Faith, One Church

Since the time of the Apostles, the Catholic Church has been the pillar and foundation of truth (1 Timothy 3:15), safeguarding divine Revelation and faithfully transmitting it through the centuries. However, in the 16th century, a movement emerged in Europe that, rather than reforming the Church from within, ended up fracturing the unity of Christendom. This movement, known as the Protestant Reformation, not only divided believers but also gave rise to a multitude of subjective interpretations of the Bible, leading to what we can now call true **doctrinal confusion**.

In this article, we will explore:

1. **The origins of the Protestant Reformation** and Martin Luther's initial intentions.
2. **The theological and ecclesial consequences** of the division.
3. **Luther's repentance** and his final statements.
4. **The current state of Protestantism**: from fragmentation to religious relativism.
5. **The call to unity in the Catholic Faith**, the one founded by Christ.

I. The Origins of the Reformation: Martin Luther and His 95 Theses

The Historical Context

In the early 16th century, Europe was deeply influenced by the Catholic Church, but it also faced internal challenges: corruption in some ecclesiastical circles, religious ignorance among the people, and political tensions between the Papacy and European kingdoms.

Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk and theology professor, initially sought **a moral and disciplinary reform** within the Church. However, his criticism of indulgences (which he misunderstood as a "sale of salvation") led him to publish his **95 Theses in 1517**, a document that openly questioned papal authority and the sacramental structure of the Church.

From Criticism to Rebellion

What began as a theological debate turned into a rupture when Luther:



- **Denied the Pope's authority** (despite Christ giving Peter the keys to the Kingdom in Matthew 16:18).
- **Rejected 7 of the sacraments**, retaining only baptism and the Eucharist (and even then, with an altered understanding).
- **Proclaimed "Sola Scriptura"**, meaning that only the Bible (individually interpreted) was the source of faith, ignoring Apostolic Tradition (2 Thessalonians 2:15).
- **Taught "Sola Fide"**, claiming that faith alone (without works) justifies, contradicting James 2:24: *"A person is justified by works and not by faith alone."*

The Church tried to correct him, but Luther, instead of submitting, was excommunicated in 1521.

II. The Division of Christendom: From One Church to Thousands of Denominations

The Domino Effect

Luther's rebellion opened the door to other reformers like Calvin, Zwingli, and Knox, each with their own interpretations. The result was **endless fragmentation**:

- **Lutherans** (followers of Luther).
- **Calvinists** (radical predestination).
- **Anglicans** (born from King Henry VIII's political whims).
- **Anabaptists** (who rejected infant baptism).

And so, within a few decades, the **visible unity of the Church** (John 17:21) was shattered.

Major Doctrinal Errors Introduced

1. **Sola Scriptura**: Without a magisterial authority, everyone interprets the Bible their own way (2 Peter 1:20). Today, there are over **45,000 Protestant denominations**, all with contradictory doctrines.
2. **Sola Fide**: The denial of works led to a **Christianity without moral commitment**.
3. **Denial of the Eucharist**: Luther maintained a certain belief in the Real Presence, but other reformers reduced it to a mere symbol, contradicting John 6:53-56.
4. **Rejection of the Papacy**: Despite its historical and biblical foundation (Matthew



16:18).

III. Luther's Repentance: Did He Realize His Mistake?

Though many ignore it, **Luther expressed remorse before his death**. In his final years, he wrote:

"We are now so close to the Day of Judgment that we will soon see whether I taught correctly or was deceived... If my doctrine remains, well; if not, woe to me!" (Letter to Melanchthon, 1545).

Additionally, in a conversation with his friend Justus Jonas, he said:

"We have sinned greatly in dividing the Church... The devil has deceived us."

These words reveal a **spiritual anguish** over the consequences of his rebellion.

IV. Protestantism Today: From Reformation to Total Confusion

Religious Relativism

Without a central authority, Protestantism has devolved into:

- **"Prosperity gospel" megachurches** (like Joel Osteen's).
- **Denominations that approve of sin** (LGBT ideology, abortion, etc.).
- **A lack of sacramentality**, reducing faith to mere "feelings."



Empty Ecumenism

Many today say, “*All religions lead to God*,” but Christ founded **one Church** (Matthew 16:18). True ecumenism is not accepting error but **inviting everyone to return to Christ’s one Church: the Catholic Church**.

V. Conclusion: The Path Back to Unity

History teaches us that **division does not come from God** (1 Corinthians 1:10). If Luther were alive today, he might join the many former Protestants who, upon studying history and the Bible, **have returned to Catholicism** (like Scott Hahn, Steve Ray, and others).

The solution is not more division but humility and obedience to the Church Christ founded.

Final Appeal

If you are Protestant, I invite you to:

1. **Study the Church Fathers** (they were Catholic, not Protestant).
2. **Ask yourself:** Where was your church before the 16th century?
3. **Consider Luther’s repentance** and seek the fullness of truth in the Catholic Church.

For, as St. Peter said: “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*” (John 6:68).

Are you ready to come home? The Catholic Church awaits you with open arms.

[If this article has helped you, share it with others. The truth must be proclaimed.]