

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

GYC 2017, Adam Ramdin

HIER STAND  
VOR KAISER UND REICH  
MARTIN LUTHER  
15 21



# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

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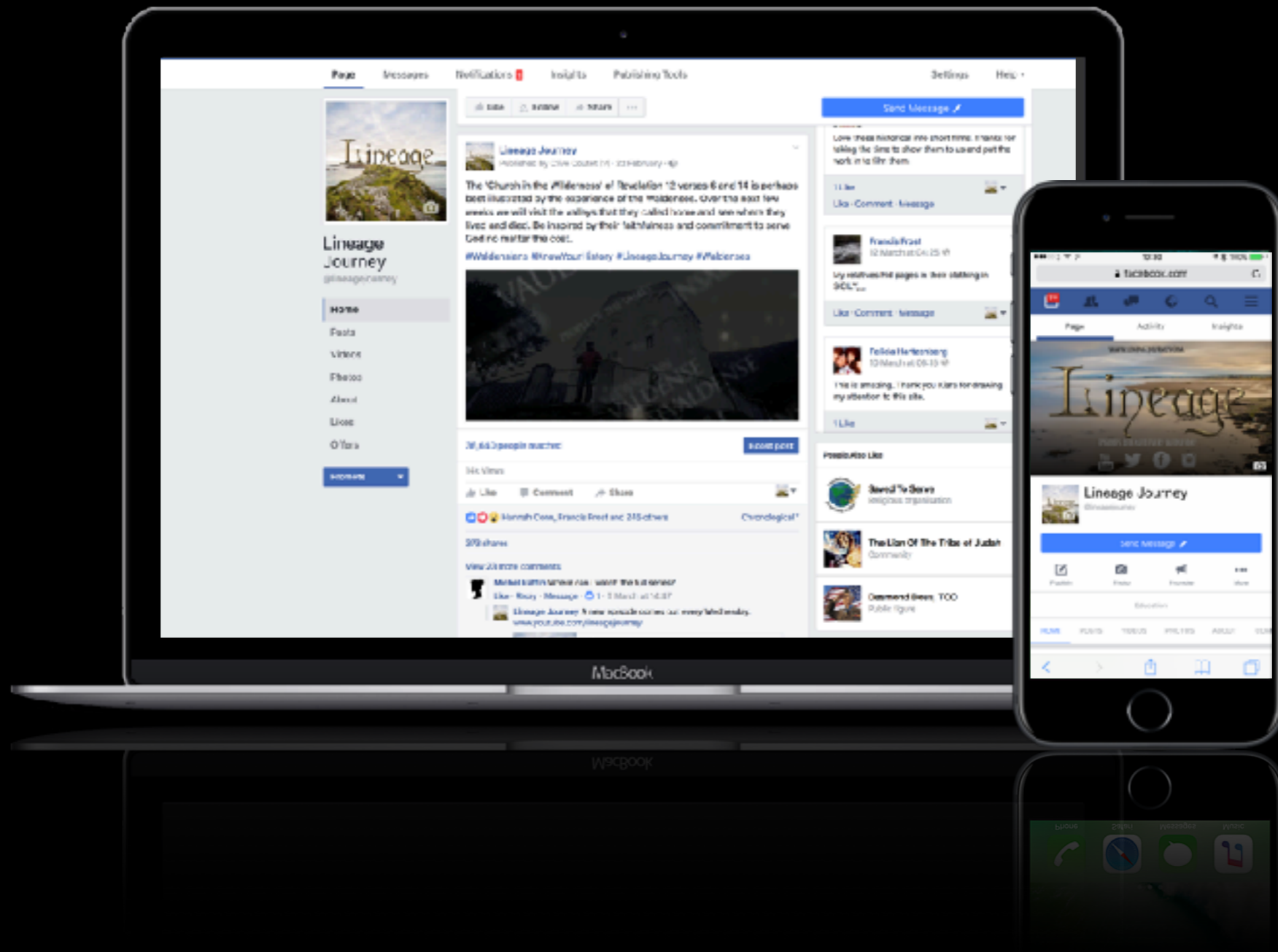
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# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

GYC 2017, Adam Ramdin



**IRELAND**

**BRITAIN**

North  
Sea

ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

Canterbury

Cologne

Rhine

Rouen

Aachen

Reims

Paris

**HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE**

**ROMAN  
CATHOLIC**

**FRANCE**

Tours

Lyon

Milan

Danube

Ebro

Narbonne

Rhone

Marseille

Corsica

**THRACE**

Toledo

Tarragona

Sardinia

Rome

Naples

Córdoba

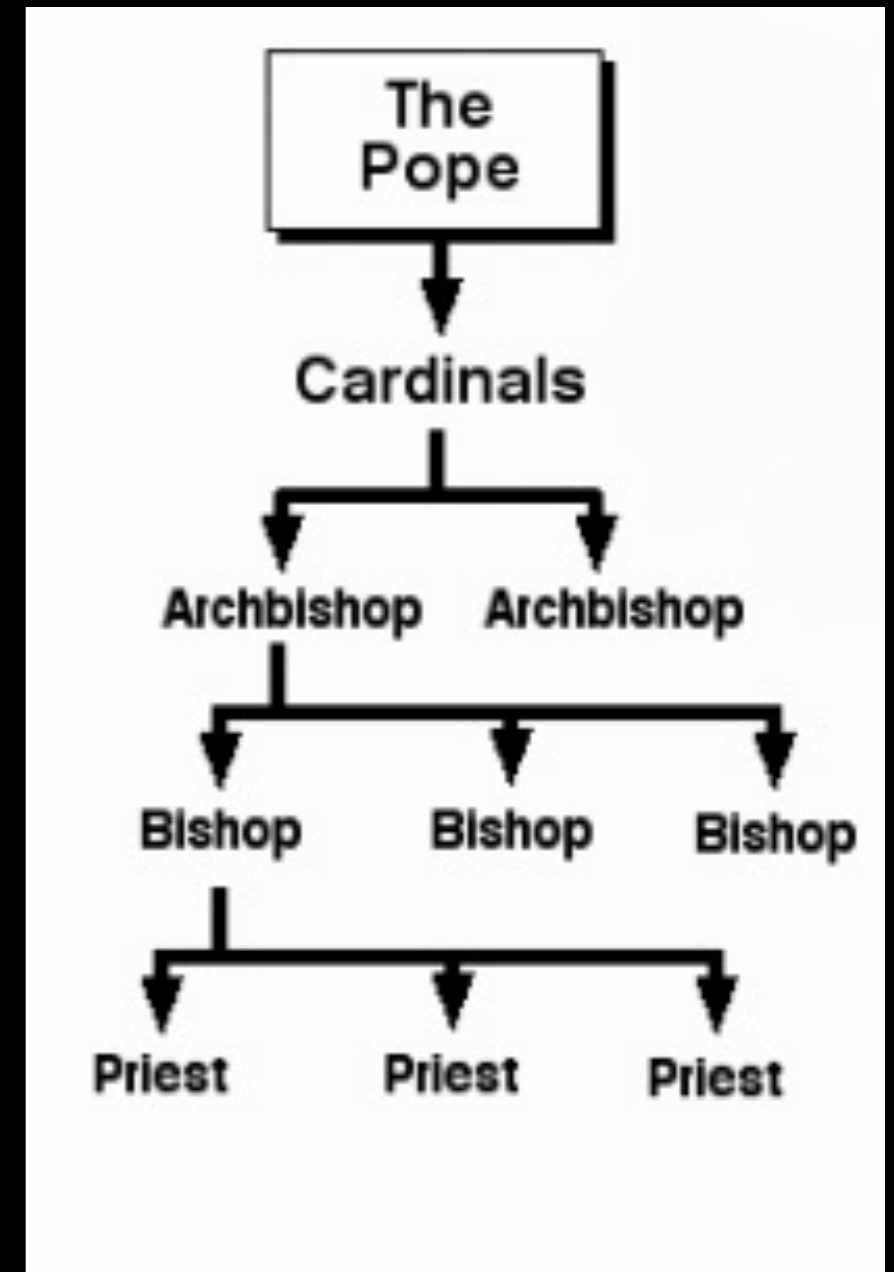
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# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

- Papal
- Episcopalian
- Presbyterian
- Congregational
- Representative



# The Reformation's Dangerous Ideas - #1

1. The Bible is the ultimate foundation of all Christian belief and practice

- For Luther the Bible was central to the life and thought of the church and to the personal devotion of the individual Christian





Welcome to  
**LUTTERWORTH**  
Workplace of John Wycliffe  
and Sir Frank Whittle



Twinned with Chambourcy



# the morning star

- John Wycliffe
- Context of birth - Tax from England to Rome
- Studied at Oxford, highly respected
- Parish of Lutterworth











SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
**JOHN WYCLIFF**  
THE EARLIEST CHAMPION OF ECCLESIASTICAL REFORMATION IN ENGLAND  
HE WAS BORN IN YORKSHIRE IN THE YEAR 1324  
IN THE YEAR 1375 HE WAS PRESENTED TO THE RECTORY OF LETTERWORTH  
WHERE HE DIED ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> OF DECEMBER 1384  
AT OXFORD HE ACQUIRED NOT ONLY THE REPUTE OF A CONSISTENT SCHOLAR  
BUT THE FAR MORE IMPORTANT TITLE OF THE EVANGELIC DOCTOR  
HIS WHOLE LIFE WAS ONE UNREMITTING STRUGGLE AGAINST THE CORRUPTIONS  
AND EXHAUSTED AUXILIARIES THE RENDERSHIP FRATERNITIES  
HIS LABOURS IN THE CAUSE OF SCRIPTURAL TRUTH WERE CROWNED BY THE UNIVERSAL APPROBATION  
THIS MIGHTY WORK DREW ON HIM INDEED THE BITTER RATHER  
OF ALL WHO WERE MAKING HEWARD IN THE BLESSINGS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN  
BUT HE FOUND AN ABUNDANT REWARD IN THE BLESSINGS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN  
TO WHOM HE UNFOLDED THE WORDS OF THE SCRIPTURES  
HIS MORTAL REMAINS WERE INTERRED NEAR THIS SPOT BUT THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO REST IN PEACE  
AFTER THE LAPSE OF MANY YEARS HIS BONES WERE DRAGGED FROM THE CHURCH AND THROWN INTO THE WATER  
AND HIS ASHES WERE NOT UNTIL THE WATER OF THE ADJOINING STREAM



## The inscription on the memorial reads:

Sacred to the memory of  
John Wiclif

The earliest champion of ecclesiastical reformation in England,  
He was born in Yorkshire in the year 1324,  
in the year 1375 he was presented to the Rectory of Lutterworth:  
where he died on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1384,

at Oxford he aquired not only the renown of a consummate schoolman,  
but the far more glorious title of the Evangelic Doctor

His whole life was one impetuous struggle against the corruptions  
and encroachments of the Papal court,

and the impostures of its devoted auxiliaries, the Mendicant Fraternities,

His labours in the cause of scriptural truth were crowned by one immortal achievement,  
his translation of the Bible into the English tongue.

This mighty work drew on him indeed, the bitter hatred  
of all who were making merchandize of the popular credulity and ignorance:  
but he found an abundant reward in the blessing of his countrymen, of every rank and age,  
to whom he unfolded the words of eternal life.

His mortal remains were interred near this spot: but they were not allowed to rest in peace  
After the lapse of many years, his bones were dragged from the grave, and consigned to the  
flames:

and his ashes were cast into the waters of the adjoining stream.





# the morning star

- John Wycliffe
- Trained preachers called 'Lollards' who travelled country sharing gospel
- Known as the 'Evangelical Doctor'



“He was anxious that they should move about and not settle. They were to avoid frequenting hunting and taverns, but to give themselves to the serious study and preaching of the word of God. They soon covered the land. Their enemies complained, ‘They went all over England...’”

- John Wycliffe, *The Dawn of the Reformation* p.53

# the morning star

- John Wycliffe
- 3 Papal Bulls against him
- Death of Gregory - Papal Schism



# the morning star

- John Wycliffe
- ‘I shall not die, but live and declare the wicked deeds of the friars’



# the morning star

- John Wycliffe
- “What, should I live and be silent? No, let the blow fall, I await its coming.”



# the morning star

## Methods

- Preaching expository sermons from the Bible
- Did not support the widely held practice of mystery plays. Pictorial teaching of the church should be superseded by the simple preaching of the Word
- Did away with the elaborate singing of his day. Spoke of frivolous performances that stirred vain men to dancing more than mourning

# the morning star

## Methods

- Evangelistic fervour in his messages
- “Though he was an academic, he could plead with men from the heart.”
- “For him it was not enough for the preacher to assert his views, to say what he thought was right, he had to prove it from Scriptures: Wycliffe wanted the Scriptures to interpret themselves.”

# the morning star

## Beliefs

- Purgatory
  - Spoke of a place where saints rested
  - “The saints sleeping and resting in purgatory.”
  - In the middle ages it was customary to dwell on the torment to come in order to make men depend on the church



# the morning star

## Beliefs

- The Authority of the Scriptures
  - “As the person of one author is to another, so is the merit of one book to another. Since Christ is infinitely superior to every other man, his book is Superior.”

# the morning star

## Beliefs

- Doctrine of the Church
  - The only alternative to relying on the support of the State, to bring about the changes needed in the Church, was to send out preachers with the Word of God
  - Believed that the Church should be disendowed, freed from engagement with the state
  - Condemned the “Caesarean Clergy” who rendered services to Caesar rather than to Christ, becoming little more than civil servants

# the morning star

## Beliefs

- Doctrine of the Church
  - Insisted that voluntary offerings of the people should form the only revenue of the Church
  - Believed that the enormous wealth of the church had corrupted it

# the morning star

## Beliefs

- Separation from Rome
  - Urged his followers to have nothing to do with the friars
  - Personally denounced the Pope as AntiChrist

# The Reformation's Dangerous Ideas - #2

2. The text of the Bible, and all preaching based upon it, should be in the vernacular

- The fundamental concern of Luther and later reformers was to break the clerical and academic monopoly on matter of faith. Faith was to be democratised by making its foundational resources available to all who could read and insisting that they were all welcome participants in discussions about the interpretation and application of their faith.

# the morning star

- His most important achievement was his translation of the Bible into English in 1382



“In the thirteenth century it was decreed, ‘We forbid the laity to possess any of the books of the Old and New Testaments, except perhaps the Psalter...but having any of these books translated into the vulgar tongue we strictly forbid.’”

- John Wycliffe, *The Dawn of the Reformation* p.44

“This pestilential and most wretched John Wycliffe of damnable memory, a child of the old devil and himself a child or pupil of Anti-Christ...crowned his wickedness by translating the Scriptures into the mother tongue.”

Archbishop Arundel

- John Wycliffe, *The Dawn of the Reformation* p.44



“His translation marked an epoch in the development of the English language, as Luther’s did in the history of the German language. Chaucer has been recognised as the father of English poetry but many recognise that Wycliffe should be recognised as the father of English prose.”

- John Wycliffe, *The Dawn of the Reformation* p.48

“Wycliffe was one of the greatest of the Reformers. In breadth of intellect, in clearness of thought, in firmness to maintain the truth, and in boldness to defend it, he was equaled by few who came after him.”

- Great Controversy p.81



# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

1408 Oxford Commission forbade the translation of the Bible

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

“We had better be without God's laws than the Pope's.”

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

“I defy the Pope, and all his laws; and if God spares my life, ere many years, I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scriptures than thou dost!”

- William Tyndale



# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

“Tyndale deliberately set out to write a Bible which would be accessible to everyone...”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/10096770/Melvyn-Bragg-on-William-Tyndale-his-genius-matched-that-of-Shakespeare.html>

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

- knock and it shall be opened unto you
- a moment in time
- fashion not yourselves to the world
- seek and ye shall find
- ask and it shall be given you
- judge not that ye be not judged



# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

- the word of God which liveth and lasteth forever
- the powers that be
- the salt of the earth
- a law unto themselves
- It came to pass

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

- filthy lucre
- the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak
- live, move and have our being
- lick the dust
- under the sun
- signs of the times

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

- let there be light
- fell flat on his face
- the land of the living
- pour out ones heart
- flesh pots

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

- go the extra mile
- the parting of the ways
- let my people go
- eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

“To make this completely clear, he used monosyllables, frequently, and in such a dynamic way that they became the drumbeat of English prose.

‘The Word was with God and the Word was God’, ‘In him was life and the life was the light of men’, and many of his idioms were monosyllabic. The effect of this was immeasurable, not only in England but across the world.”



Clock tower

MAN REVOLUTION  
Koperty, Nylite



# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

“A complete analysis of the Authorised Version, known down the generations as ‘the AV’ or ‘the King James’ was made in 1998. It shows that Tyndale's words account for 84% of the New Testament and for 75.8% of the Old Testament books that he translated.” - *Moynahan*

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

“He [Tyndale] is the mainly unrecognised translator of the most influential book in the world. Although the Authorised King James Version is ostensibly the production of a learned committee of churchmen, it is mostly cribbed from Tyndale with some reworking of his translation.” - *Joan Bridgman*





Sondern Denn ditz  
alles  
raiglich  
nen

Bücher  
des Alten  
Testaments  
C. N. D. C.

Das Neue  
Testament  
verdeutschet  
von  
Doktor  
Martin Luther

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

- Luther's German translation of the Bible was finished in 1534
- Before this there was no common German language. His Bible helped to unify the different dialects
- Became direct source for Bibles in Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Holland

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

“But Luther's real genius was in his colloquial turns of phrase. Before him, the Bible was a theological text; his translations transformed not just into understandable language, but everyday language. It contained ‘conversations you might overhear: Jesus speaking as a German carpenter to German fishermen.’”

- *Neil MacGregor*



... dich  
... lobt alles  
... glich  
... men

... Bücher  
... des Alten  
... Testaments  
... M. L.

Das Neue  
Testament  
verdeutschet  
von  
Doktor  
Martin Lucher

# The Reformation's Dangerous Ideas - #3

3. Salvation is free, unmerited gift of God, received by faith

- Also summarised by 'The Just Shall Live by Faith.' For Luther by misunderstanding or denying this, the Church had lost its identity and the Reformation was about restructuring beliefs and practises of the church to be consistent with this core, foundational, driving belief.

# the morning star

## Beliefs

- Justification by Faith
  - “Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient for salvation. There must be atonement made for sin according to the righteousness of God.”

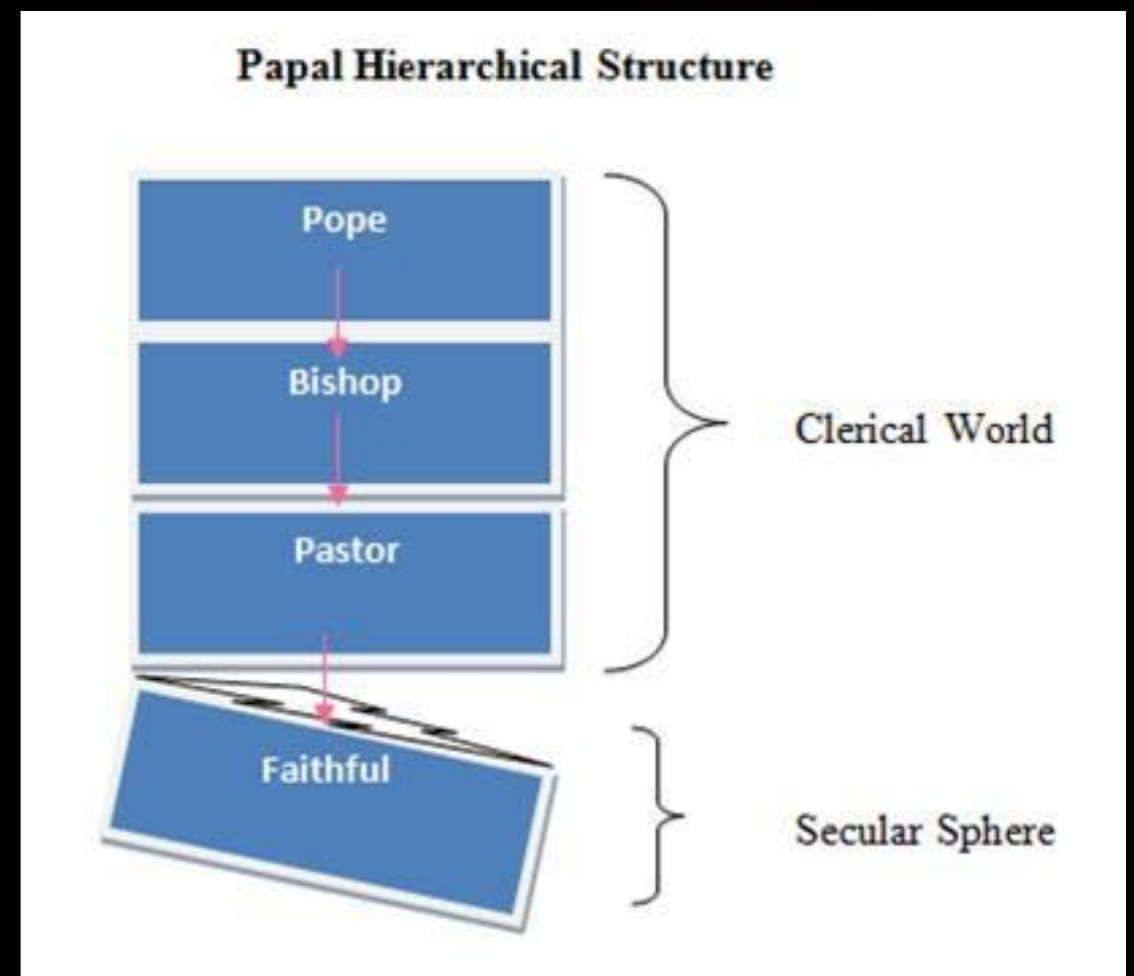
# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

4. There is no fundamental distinction between clergy and laity

- The 'Priesthood of All Believers' had huge implications. Clergy and laity could receive communion. Clergy should be allowed to marry. Each congregation should be able to elect its own preachers and pastors - aim to eliminate the idea of a spiritual elite.

# Papal Church Structure

- ▶ Supreme authority in the Pope
  - ▶ Cardinals
  - ▶ Archbishops
  - ▶ Bishops
  - ▶ Priests
- ▶ Local church or individual member has no authority in church administration.











# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

From 1524 lived as a fugitive due to conflict between King Henry VIII and himself

As one of the leading Theologians in England his opposition to the Kings divorce was not favourable received

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

Henry Phillips befriended him like Judas

Taken to Vilvoorde Castle in Belgium and held as a  
prisoner

Truce was attempted to be settled between Tyndale and  
the King

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

Choice:

- Return home to England
- Die for the principle that you have lived by

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

Principle:

- All men are created equal
- The Bible for all men is a by product of this Biblical principle

# WILLIAM TYNDALE

FIRST TRANSLATOR OF THE  
NEW TESTAMENT  
INTO ENGLISH FROM THE GREEK,  
BORN A.D. 1484,  
DIED A MARTYR AT WILVORDE  
IN BELGIUM, A.D. 1536.

"THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET, AND  
A LIGHT TO MY PATH" — "THE ENTRANCE  
OF THY WORDS GIVETH LIGHT." —

PSALM CXIX. 105, 130.

"AND THIS IS THE RECORD THAT GOD HAS  
GIVEN TO US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE  
IS IN HIS SON." — I. JOHN V. 11.

THE LAST WORDS  
OF WILLIAM TYNDALE WERE

"I AM NOT ASHAMED OF MY CONFESSION OF THE KING OF ENGLAND'S WORDS"



## WILLIAM TYNDALE

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FIRST TRANSLATOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT  
INTO ENGLISH FROM THE GREEK.

BORN A.D. 1484.

DIED A MARTYR AT VILVORDE  
IN BELGIUM. A.D. 1536.

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“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND  
A LIGHT TO MY PATH” - “THE ENTRANCE  
OF THY WORDS GIVETH LIGHT”.

PSALM 119 v105, 132

“AND THIS IS THE RECORD THAT GOD HATH  
GIVEN TO US ETERNAL LIFE AND THIS  
LIFE IS IN HIS SON”.

1 JOHN 5 v11

THE LAST WORDS  
OF WILLIAM TYNDALE WERE  
“LORD: OPEN THE KING OF ENGLAND’S EYES”

WITHIN A YEAR AFTERWARDS, A BIBLE WAS  
PLACED IN EVERY PARISH CHURCH  
BY THE KING’S COMMAND.

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

“From the outset, Protestantism rejected the critical medieval distinction between the ‘sacred’ and ‘secular’ orders. While this position can easily be interpreted as a claim for the desacralization of the sacred, it can equally well be understood as a claim for the sacralization of the secular. As early as 1520, Luther had laid the fundamental conceptual foundations for created sacred space within the secular...”

— Alister E. McGrath, Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution: A History from the Sixteenth Century to the Twenty-First

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

...His doctrine of the 'priesthood of all believers' asserted that there is no genuine difference of status between the 'spiritual' and the 'temporal' order. All Christians are called to be priests - and can exercise that calling within the everyday world. The idea of 'calling' was fundamentally redefined: no longer was it about being called to serve God by leaving the world; it was now about serving God in the world.”

— Alister E. McGrath, Christianity's Dangerous Idea: The Protestant Revolution: A History from the Sixteenth Century to the Twenty-First

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

“Nineteenth-century print culture shared with the Protestantism that sparked it a democratizing impulse rooted in the ideology of the priesthood of all believers. In the vastly expanded world of print this impulse led to what one might call a priesthood of all readers, a situation ripe for religious turmoil rooted in interpretive chaos.”

Matthew Hedstrom, *The Rise of Liberal Religion: Book Culture and American Spirituality in the Twentieth Century*

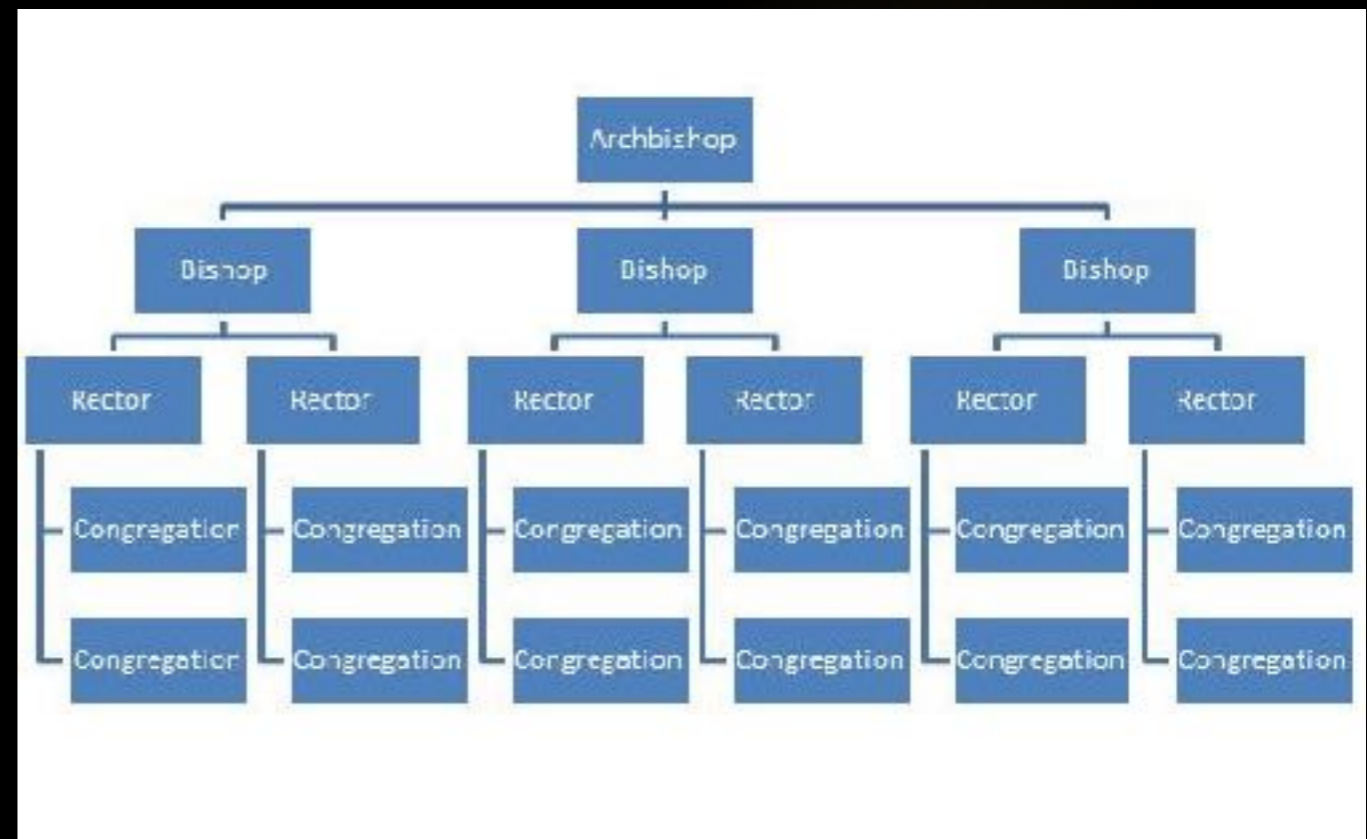
# Episcopal Church Structure

- ▶ Epi - scopos = overseer / superintendent
- ▶ Ebicopus => bishop

- ▶ Church governance by bishops

- ▶ Bishops
- ▶ Priests / Clergy
- ▶ Deacons

- ▶ Anglican / Lutheran / Orthodox

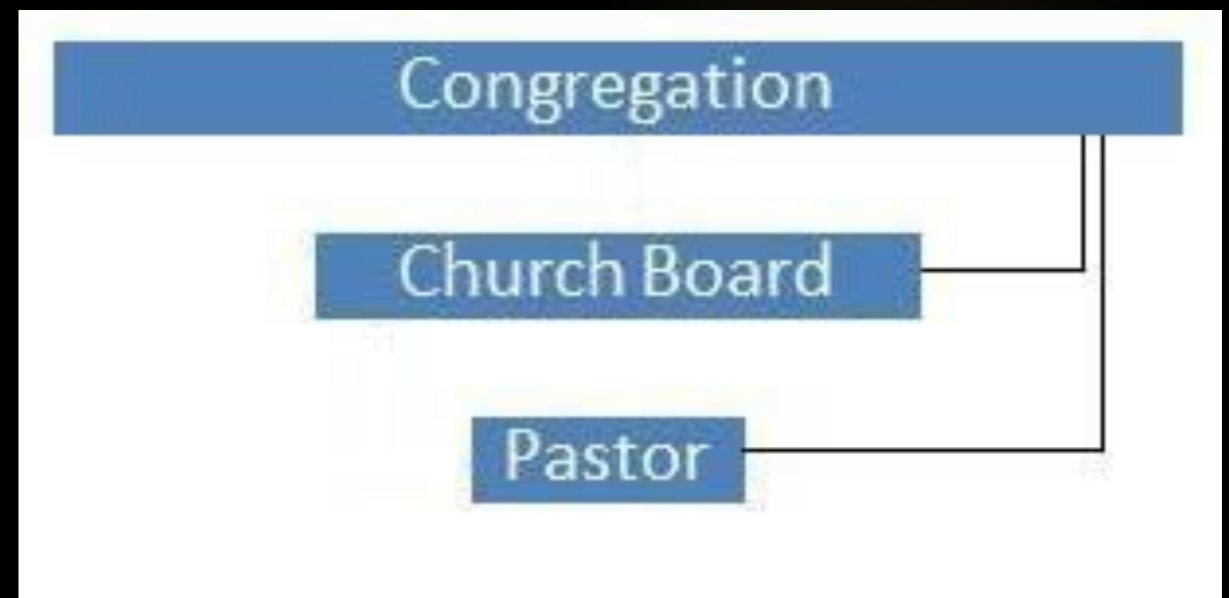


# Presbyterian Church Structure

- ▶ Authority rests on church membership through assemblies
- ▶ Local church is governed by one assembly.
- ▶ This assembly is governed by another wider assembly.
- ▶ Theory of governance developed by John Calvin and John Knox; most popular in Reformation movement churches
- ▶ Bishop = presbyter = episkopos = elder
- ▶ Executive responsibility delegated to representative bodies

# Independent/Congregational Church Structure

- ▶ Local church has supreme authority
- ▶ Authority in theology
- ▶ Authority in personnel
- ▶ Authority in tithe
- ▶ Localized in one spot



# Representative/Adventist Church Structure

- ▶ Authority in the church rests in the church membership
- ▶ Executive responsibility delegated to representative bodies and officers
- ▶ Three Conferences Levels
  - ▶ Local Conference – sisterhood of churches
  - ▶ Union Conference – union of conferences
  - ▶ General Conference – entire union of conferences
    - ▶ 13 administrative Divisions of the General Conference



# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

5. The reform of the church's life and thought was not about beginning again in a complete reconstruction

- Luther's idea was to reform an existing Christian church that had lost its bearings during the Middle Ages

“Like after Reformers, Wycliffe did not, at the opening of his work, foresee whither it would lead him. He did not set himself deliberately in opposition to Rome. But devotion to truth could not but bring him in conflict with falsehood. The more clearly he discerned the errors of the papacy, the more earnestly he presented the teaching of the Bible. ”

- Great Controversy p.81





“Yet it was not without a terrible struggle with himself that Luther decided upon a final separation from the church. It was about this time that he wrote: ‘I feel more and more every day how difficult it is to lay aside the scruples which one has imbibed since childhood. Oh, how much pain it has caused me, though I had the scriptures on my side, to justify it to myself that I should dare to make a stand alone...’”

- Great Controversy p.143



# Gutenberg Press

Without the new technology Luther's protest may have been a tempest in a small teapot. The recent development of the printing press meant that his Theses were translated into German, printed en masse and circulated across the entire nation

“The publicity did not appeal to me...”

- Oberman, Luther, pp. 190-191

# Gutenberg Press

“Originally written in Latin, they were also translated into German, printed up, and distributed to a wider audience. The result then was that within a few weeks they were all over Germany and beyond. What had begun as a dispute among a few theologians and church officials had become an international controversy on account of the printing press.”



# The Holy Club



At Christ Church, Oxford University, Charles Wesley founded **the Holy Club**, which met for Bible study, prayer and self-examination.



METHODIST CENTRAL HALL

Siemens  
2008

SIEMENS

Siemens

Siemens

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

1. 'Holy Club' set up as a campus ministry at Oxford University for purpose of spiritual growth and outreach
2. Met every day, visited sick and imprisoned. Fasted, prayed studied
3. Called Oxford Methodists in a local journal
4. Initially John Wesley travelled the country and visited small groups - in time this became something much bigger

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

Whilst the latter part of the 18th century saw 5 revolutions across Europe, most notably in France, England was spared a bloody revolution by the revival brought about by John and Charles Wesley

# The Reformation's Dangerous Idea

6. We are duty bound by our conscience to the Bible over  
Councils or the Church

# Martin Luther from 1517 - 1521

- Oct 1517 - Luther posts Ninety Five Theses
  - Intention is to reform the church
- April 1521 - Luther is condemned at the Diet of Worms
  - Realises that this wont happen. Loyalty to conscience and Bible over the Church came to prominence here



“Unless I am convinced by scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”

Martin Luther, Diet of Worms



HIER STAND  
VOR KAISER UND REICH  
MARTIN LUTHER  
15 21

The assembly stood in amazement, speechless at that they had just seen and heard. He was again asked if he would retract to which he responded again -

“May God be my helper, for I can retract nothing.”

GC 161

# PROTESTANT REFORMATION MAP







# The Reformations Dangerous Idea

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