

# Roman Catholicism

## Why The Need for a Reformation?



Oikos Apologetic Series

By Owen Daniels

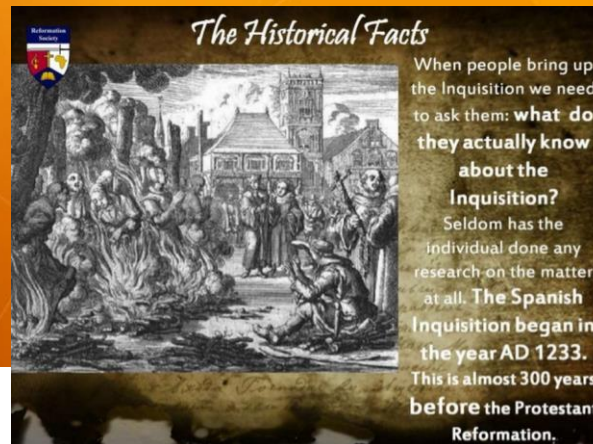
# Persecuted or Ignored Pre-Reformers

- **The Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites, etc** – All of these groups were appalled by the moral evil emanating from Rome. Though they did not disagree with the theology of Rome, they siloed themselves from its corrupt influences.
- **Waldensians** – Started 1177. boldly proclaimed the Word of God throughout Southern France, Northern Italy and Switzerland. After the Bible was placed on The Index of Forbidden Books by the Council of Valencia in 1229, the Papacy began to viciously persecute the Waldensians. Many thousands were murdered. The persecution of the Waldensians only ended in the 17th Century when Oliver Cromwell of England intervened vigorously on their behalf. The Waldensians survive in Northern Italy to this day - the oldest Protestant church in the world.
- **John Wycliffe (1320-1384)** - Wycliffe championed the independence of England from Papal control and supported King Edward III's refusal to pay taxes to the Pope. "Who can forgive sins?" Wycliffe taught: "God alone!" He also exposed indulgences, purgatory and transubstantiation as unbiblical heresies. Translated the Bible into English. Justification by faith through Christ alone. Organized Lollards. The Morning Star of the Reformation. Died of old age, but a later pope had his bones burned four decades after his death.



# Persecuted or Ignored Pre-Reformers

- **Jerome Savonarola (1452-1498)** - Savonarola of Florence was a Dominican monk who boldly denounced the prevalent corruptions and immorality in the churches. He was burned at the stake. Savonarola was not a doctrinal Reformer but a social Reformer campaigning for moral standards and integrity. “We will pry open the doors and such a stench will emerge...”
- **Inquisition** – 12<sup>th</sup> Century. The Inquisition was established to root out reformers in the Albigensian and Waldensian sects.
- **Jan Huss** – A monk in Bohemia (Prague, Czech.). Student of Wycliffe's writings. Excommunicated 5 times since he held that priests could not forgive sins, the Bible was the source of faith/practice, exposed false miracles (like weeping statues), did not believe in transubstantiation. Justification by grace through faith. Invited to Constance with promise of protection. Put him in a prison-sewer to die. They burned him at the stake.



# Corruption - Papal Evil

STEPHEN VII (896-897AD)

"He dug up a Corsican predecessor, Pope Formosus (891-896), when he had been dead for over nine months.... He dressed the stinking corpse in full pontificals, placed him on the throne in the Lateran and proceeded to interrogate him personally....After being found guilty, the corpse was condemned as an anti-pope, stripped and minus the two fingers with which he had given his fake apostolic blessing, was thrown into the Tiber...." (Vicars of Christ - the Dark Side of the Papacy by Father Peter de Rosa).

SERGIUS III (904-911)

Standing in his way to the throne had been Leo V, who reigned for one month before he was imprisoned by an usurper, Cardinal Christopher. Sergius had both killed. Then he exhumed his predecessor and had him beheaded, three fingers chopped off and thrown into the Tiber.

JOHN XII (955 - 963)

He invented sins, it was said, that had not been known since the beginning of the world - including relations with his mother. John XII ran a harem in the Lateran Palace, he gambled with the offerings of pilgrims and he even toasted the devil at the high altar during the mass.

# Corruption - Papal Evil

BENEDICT V (964)

Described by a church historian as "the most iniquitous of all the monsters of ungodliness."

BENEDICT IX (1032-44, 1045, 1047-8)

Elected pope at age eleven, he was twice driven from his position due to his participation in plunder, immorality, oppression and murder. Church historians described him as "That wretch, from the beginning of his pontificate to the end of his life, feasted on immorality," and "a demon from hell in the disguise of a priest has occupied the chair of Peter."

SIXTUS IV (1471 - 1484)

This is the pope who built the Sistine Chapel in which all popes are now elected. Sixtus IV had several illegitimate sons, licensed the brothels of Rome and received a large amount of revenue for the papacy from these houses of iniquity, introduced the novel idea of selling indulgences for the dead to raise more revenue, and sanctioned the Inquisition in Castile (Spain) by issuing a bull in 1478 (in just one year - 1482 - in one city of Andalusia, 2000 "heretics" were burned as a result).

# Corruption - Papal Evil

ALEXANDER VI (1492 - 1503)

He was a murderer by age 12, he had 10 known illegitimate children, he was infamous for his drunken and immoral parties, he was known to have cardinals who had purchased their positions to be poisoned so that he could sell their positions again and increase his turnover. He spent a fortune in bribes to secure his own election as pope and he caused the Reformer Savonarola to be burned at the stake.

Consider – The monuments of Rome are magnificent. However, they were built off of the superstition, blood, sweat , tears and toil of the exploited poor.

**And if this was the Popes, you can only imagine the rest of the hierarchy...**



# Papal Contradiction

Pope Gregory VII (1073-85) declared that "The Pope cannot make a mistake".

The First Vatican Council (1869-70) under Pope Pius IX raised the Dogma of Papal infallibility to become the official teaching of Roman Catholicism adding the usual anathema upon all who dared to disagree: "But if anyone ....presume to contradict this assertion, let him be accursed."

Yet between 1378 to 1408 there were first two popes and then three! Gregory XII reigned from Rome, Benedict XIII from Avignon and John XXIII from Pisa.

John XXIII was described in Vicars of Christ: "He was noted as a former pirate, pope-poisoner, mass-murderer, mass-fornicator..., adulterer on a scale unknown outside fables, simoniac par excellence, blackmailer, pimp, master of dirty tricks."

# Papal Contradiction

John XXIII accused his rival pope Benedict XIII of being "a Fake" and Gregory XII he nicknamed "Mistake"!

Pope Pius IX, who at the First Vatican Council (1869 - 1870) caused the dogma of Papal Infallibility to become the official teaching of Roman Catholicism, also issued an edict permitting "excommunication, confiscation, banishment, imprisonment for life, as well as secret execution in heinous cases."

At the First Vatican Council, Bishop Strossmayer (himself a papist) gave a speech arguing against papal infallibility. He pointed out: "Gregory I calls anyone anti-Christ who takes the name of Universal Bishop; and contrawise Boniface III made Emperor Phocas confer that title upon him. Paschal II and Eugenius III authorised duelling; Julius II and Pins IV forbade it. Hadrian II declared civil magistrates to be valid; Pius VII condemned them. Sixtus V published an edition of the Bible and recommended it to be read; Pius VII condemned the reading of the Bible."

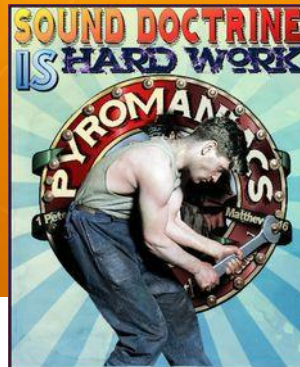


# Papal Contradiction

It could also be noted that while one (supposedly infallible) pope, Eugene IV (1431 - 1447), condemned Joan of Arc as a heretic to be burned alive, another pope, Benedict XV, in 1920, declared her to be a saint and her burning a mistake.



Yet the Dogma of Papal Infallibility declares that when a pope speaks ex cathedra his words are "as infallible as if it had been uttered by Christ Himself!"



# Papal Power Concentration

**Pope Leo The Great** – (400-461) The Pope in Rome is primary. He described his special relationship with Peter and his primacy as head of the Church.

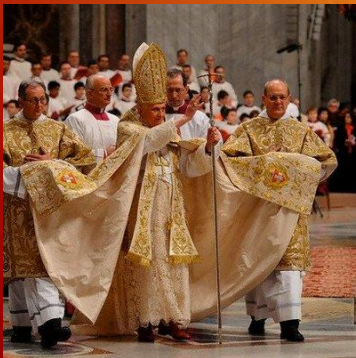
**Innocent III** – (1160-1216) The Vicar of Peter (apostolic), the Vicar of Christ (sacred rule), the Vicar of God (secular rule – power to crown)!  
1215 – Transubstantiation. Interdict used as weapon.

**Unam Sanctum** - (1302) Pope Boniface VIII. “It is necessary to salvation to be subject to the Pope in Rome...” “plenitudo potestatis” - those who resist the Roman Pontiff are resisting God's ordination (fullness of power).

**Sixtus IV** – (1412-1484) Started Inquisition. Pioneered indulgences for the dead (not just the living) in 1476. Used plenitudo potestatis to face criticism.

# Papal Power Concentration

Pope Pius IX - First Vatican Council (1869 - 1870) caused the dogma of Papal Infallibility to become the official teaching of Roman Catholicism. Perhaps a little late...



# Bible Banned

- Council of Valencia placed the Bible on The Index of Forbidden Books in 1229.
- At the Council of Toulouse (1229 A.D), papal church leaders ruled: "We prohibit laymen possessing copies of the Old and New Testament ... We forbid them most severely to have the above books in the popular vernacular." "The lords of the districts shall carefully seek out the heretics in dwellings, hovels, and forests, and even their underground retreats shall be entirely wiped out." Pope Gregory IX, Council Tolosanum, 1229 A.D.
- The Archbishop of Canterbury Arundel: "That pestilent and most wretched John Wycliffe, of damnable memory, a child of the old devil, and himself a child and pupil of the anti-Christ...crowned his wickedness by translating the Scriptures into the mother tongue."
- Catholic historian Henry Knighton wrote: "John Wycliffe translated the Gospel from Latin into the English...made it the property of the masses and common to all and...even to women...and so the pearl of the Gospel is thrown before swine and trodden under foot and what is meant to be the jewel of the clergy has been turned into the jest of the laity...has become common..."

# Bible Banned

- A synod of clergy in 1408 decreed: “It is dangerous...to translate the text of Holy Scripture from one language into another...we decree and ordain that no-one shall in future translate on his authority any text of Scripture into the English tongue or into any other tongue, by way of book, booklet or treatise. Nor shall any man read, in public or in private, this kind of book, booklet or treatise, now recently composed in the time of the said John Wycliffe...under penalty of the greater excommunication.”

On one day in 1519  
seven men and women  
in Coventry were  
burned alive by the  
Inquisition for the  
crime of teaching their  
children: *The Lords  
Prayer, The Ten  
Commandments and  
The Apostles Creed-*  
in English!



# Salvation Shattered

## The Power to Forgive Sins -

- Penance – Matthew 3:2 – “Repent, for the kingdom...” vs. Vulgate
- Indulgences – Emerged in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries from Crusades
- Relics – Enough bones of the apostles... Enough wood from the cross....

Power of Priests – The power to take ordinary bread and wine...

Transubstantiation – Product of the 1215 4<sup>th</sup> Lateran Council..

Rise of Mary – Co-Redemptrix/Co-Mediatrix. Touted by Franciscans. If not for the Reformation...?

Justification – Faith and works...

# Why Was Reformation Needed?

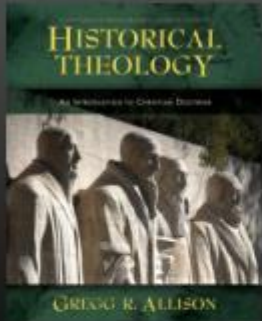
"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?"

Matthew 7:15-16

To fight back the wolves!

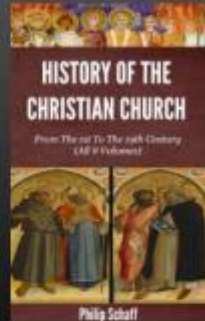


# Resources



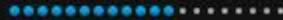
Historical Theology: An I...

Gregg Allison

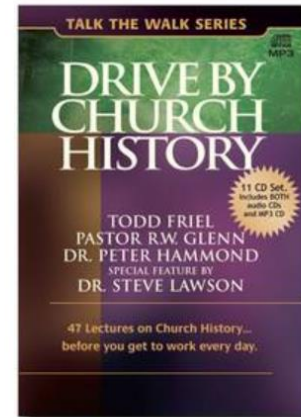



History of the Christian ...

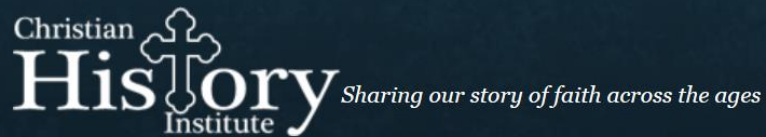
Philip Schaff




## Drive By Church History



 <https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org>



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