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**AP World History Mr. Eriksen**

**The Protestant Reformation**

The Protestant Reformation was really an event that occurred over centuries, but it came to a climactic point with the actions of a German monk. When Martin Luther nailed his *95 Theses* to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany on All Saints Day Eve (Halloween), 1517, the course of world history changed forever. Aside from the immediate impact of the Reformation on religion and people’s personal views about God, this event would influence the political, social and economic makeup of Europe and, eventually, much of the globe by the 19th century. Many historians argue that the largest empire in the history of the world, the British Empire, was built by the *Protestant work ethic*; capitalism, they argue, was birthed by this same motivation. The Dutch, also Protestant Puritans, would eventually monopolize the Indian Ocean spice trade through joint-stock companies. Those that first settled the colonies that would become the U.S.A. were Protestants: English joint-stock companies in the Chesapeake and Puritans in New England. The Reformation had far-reaching impacts (in all SPRITE categories around the world).

**Directions**- Below are listed just a few of the grievances that many Europeans had with the Catholic Church leading up to the Reformation. Read them, then read the Biblical passages used by reformers to attack their perceived corrupt practices of the Catholic Church. List the documents that pertain to each grievance.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grievances** | **Biblical text which addressed it** |
| 1. **Sale of indulgences**- in order to pay for the construction of St. Peter’s Church in Rome (w/ Michelangelo designing the largest dome in the world to top it off), the church sold indulgences. Indulgences, usually in the form of a paper certificate, freed a family member from or decreased their time spent in purgatory. For the right price, one could even secure their own eternal salvation. |  |
| 1. **Simony**- Once again, in order to pay for the decadent lifestyles of popes and bishops and the construction of monumental buildings, the Catholic Church sold high church positions (bishoprics, archbishoprics, etc) for large sums. If one was high clergy in the Catholic Church, it could mean significant financial benefits. In addition, the Catholic Church claimed that the Pope was the head of the church; the word pope does not appear in the Bible, a point of great contention with reformers who contended that the only ultimate authority was Christ. |  |
| 1. **Decadent lifestyle of clergy**- the Catholic Church began to look less like a spiritual kingdom and more like a physical, temporal kingdom. As an example, the pope lived like a king: keeping a personal army, being richly adorned with jewels, commissioning the most talented artists of the Renaissance to paint his likeness and decorate Catholic Churches, living in mansions, etc. |  |
| 1. **Salvation by works**- over the centuries, the Catholic Church began to emphasize rituals over spiritual transformation that led to righteous living. The sacraments, which, according to papal decrees, could only be administered by Catholic clergy, were preached as necessary to salvation. If one did not complete these works, salvation could not be attained. For Catholics and Protestants, this became the fault line because this (justification by works you perform) clashed with clear Biblical teachings. |  |
| 1. **The word of God, the Bible, was not accessible to most people**- the official language of the Catholic Church was still Latin—mass was conducted in Latin, the Bible was only printed in Latin, and most common people were still illiterate. Not only did most people not have access to the Bible, but a papal decree said that the Pope was the only person who could interpret scripture. Many Christian scholars hold that the biggest event within the Reformation was to unleash the word of God: Luther translated the Bible into the German vernacular and, w/ the help of the printing press, it reached millions in Europe. The rest is history. |  |

1. What seem to be the main arguments by reformers? What is their main weapon against the Catholic Church? What technology aided them in spreading this message?

Answers

1. 16th Catholic Church practices and teachings contradict what the Bible says.
2. The Bible itself, especially translated into vernacular.
3. Printing press.
4. Do you think the message of the reformers appealed to the masses of Europe? Why?
5. Why do you think the message and ideas emphasized by reformers would cause the leadership of the Catholic Church to feel threatened? How did the Catholic Church react/respond?

**DOCUMENT A**

**Matthew 6:20-24**

**19**“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust [[5]](http://www.gnpcb.org/esv/search/?q=Matthew+6#f5) destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20**but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**22**“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, **23**but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

**24**“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. [[6]](http://www.gnpcb.org/esv/search/?q=Matthew+6#f6)

DOCUMENT B

Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**DOCUMENT C**

**Matthew 19:20-22**

20 The young man said to him, “All these (commandments) I have kept. What do I still lack?” 21 Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” 22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

**Luke 6:20**

**20**And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

DOCUMENT D

Romans 10:8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**DOCUMENT E**

**1 Timothy 6:6-10**

**6**Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, **7**for we brought nothing into the world, and [[1]](http://www.gnpcb.org/esv/search/?q=1+timothy+6%3A6-10#f1) we cannot take anything out of the world. **8**But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. **9**But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

**Hebrews 13:5**

5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

**DOCUMENT F**

## Romans 3:20-26

**20**Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

**21**But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **22**This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, **23**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24**and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25**God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%203:20-26;&version=NIV;#fen-NIV-28002a)] through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— **26**he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

**DOCUMENT G**

**The High Priestly Prayer (Jesus’ Prayer)**

John 17:15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. [[1]](http://www.gnpcb.org/esv/search/?q=John+17&scope=New+Testament#f1) 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them [[2]](http://www.gnpcb.org/esv/search/?q=John+17&scope=New+Testament#f2) in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, [[3]](http://www.gnpcb.org/esv/search/?q=John+17&scope=New+Testament#f3) that they also may be sanctified [[4]](http://www.gnpcb.org/esv/search/?q=John+17&scope=New+Testament#f4) in truth.