

The Areopagus

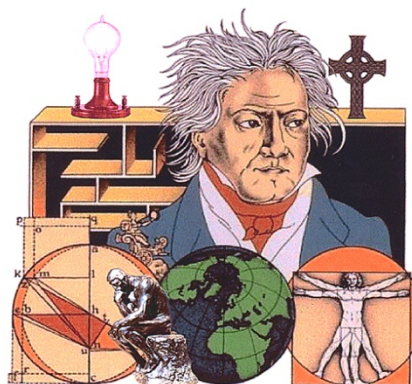
Atlanta, Georgia

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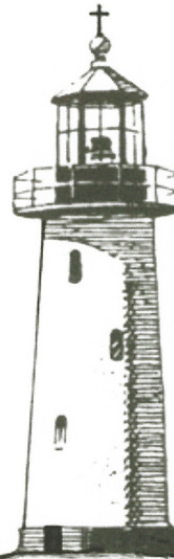
The Aréopagus

Seminars and Forums in

- Biblical studies
- Christian history
 - Apologetics
- Contemporary cultural issues
 - Christian spirituality
- Science and the Christian faith
 - Literature and the arts



The Areopagus



1. Bibliology

2. Christian History

3. Apologetics Foundations

4. Alternative Universes: Comparative Worldviews

5. The Theodicy Issue: The Problem of God and Evil

6. The Historical Quest for the Real Jesus

7. Special Topics: Other Religions, the Afterlife, etc.

8. Frontline Apologetics: Responding to Skeptics

9. Cultural Apologetics: How Should We Now Live?

10. Apologetics and the Arts

“A cultural life will exist outside the Church whether it exists inside or not.... Good philosophy must exist, if for no other reason, because bad philosophy needs to be answered....

“Most of all, perhaps, we need intimate knowledge of the past. Not because the past has any magic about it, but because we cannot study the future, and yet need something to set against the present....

“A man who has lived in many places is not likely to be deceived by the local errors of his native village. The scholar has lived in many times and is therefore in some degree immune from the great cataract of nonsense that pours from the press and the microphone of his own age.”

-- C. S. Lewis, “Learning in War-Time” (*The Weight of Glory*)



A Survey of Christian History

The Reformation Era



A Survey of Christian History

The Protestant Reformation *What Every Christian Should Know*

The Basic Questions

Who

What

What

Where

Where

When

Why

Why

When

Who

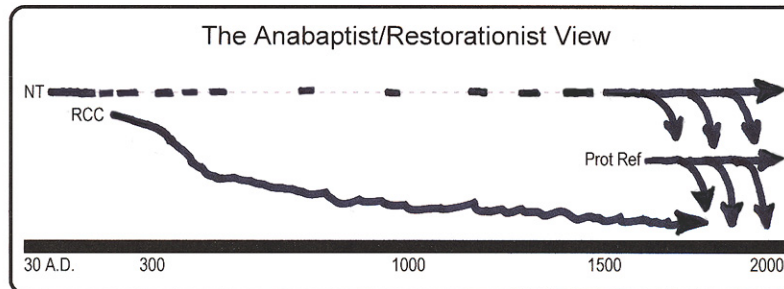
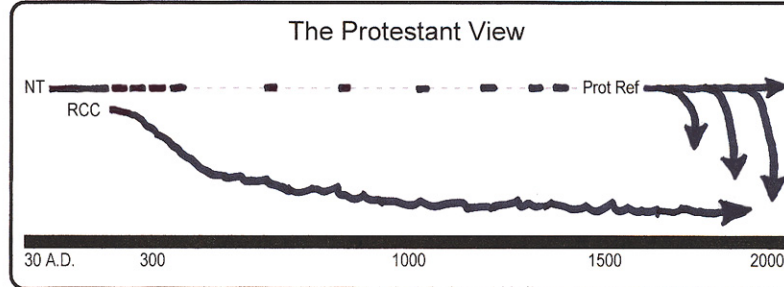
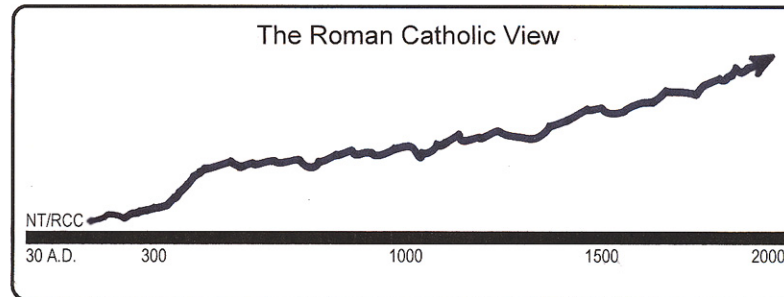
How

How

The Meaning (or Legacy)

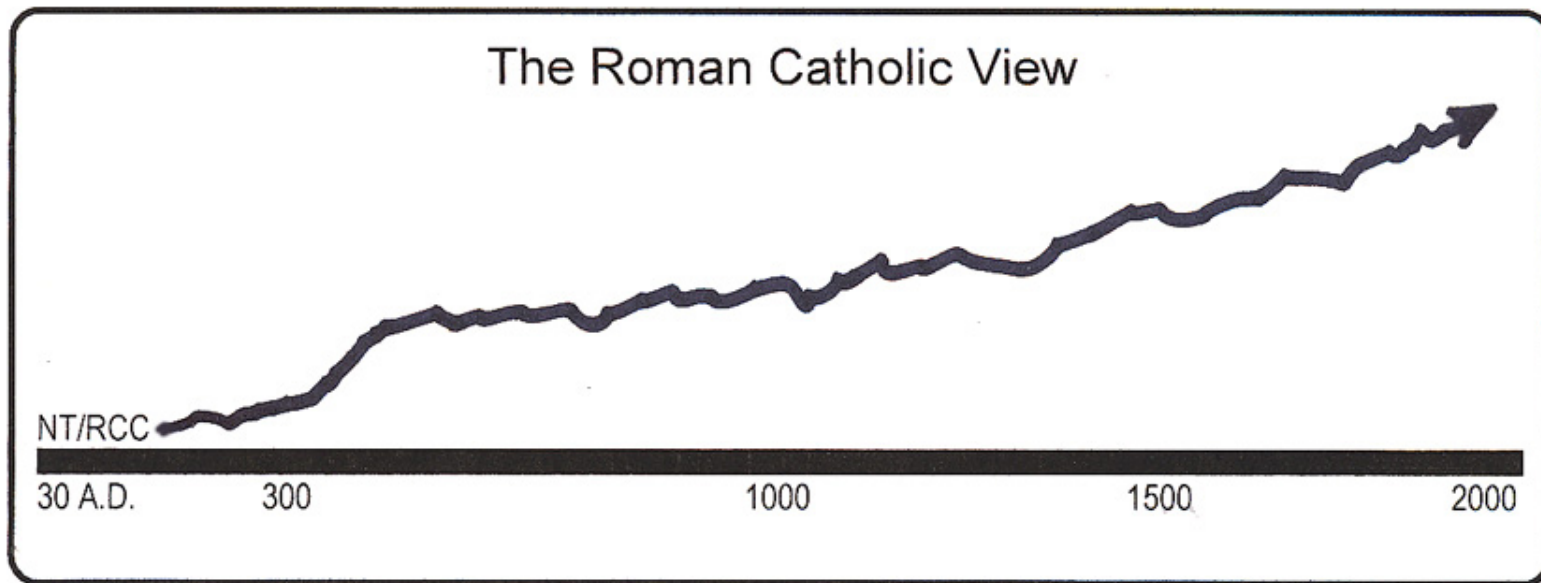
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Christian History: Three Interpretive Views



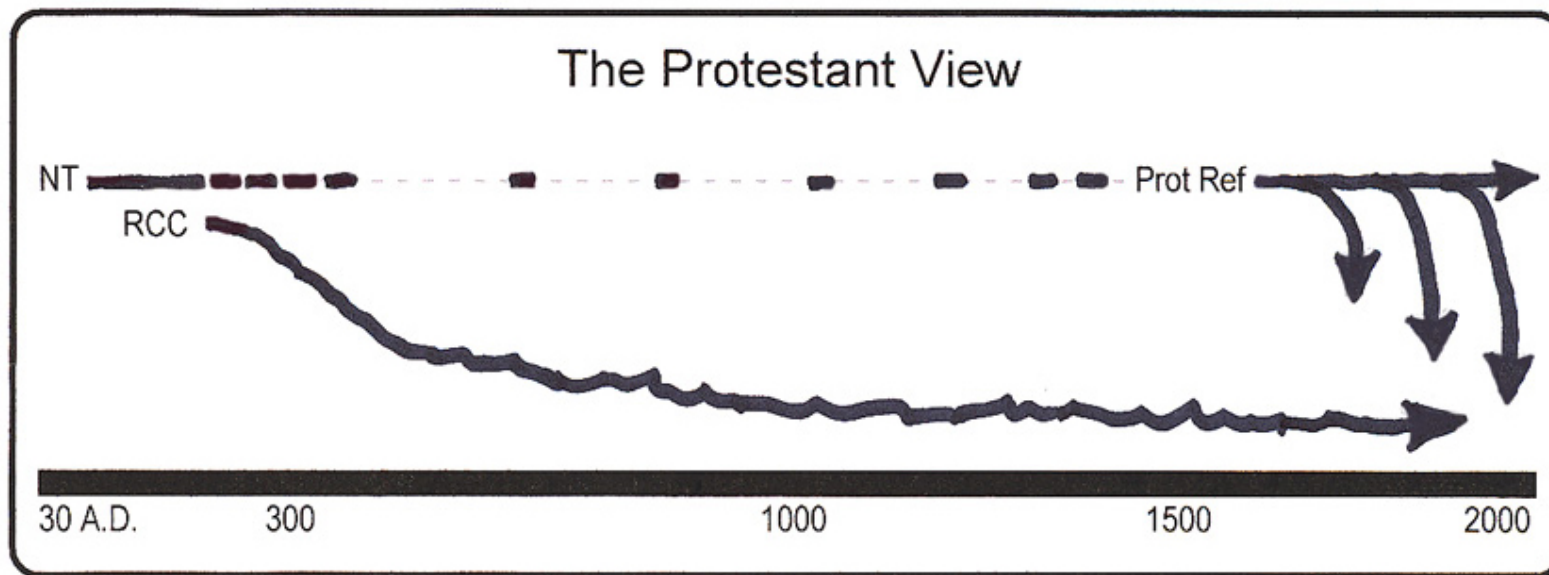
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Christian History: Three Interpretive Views



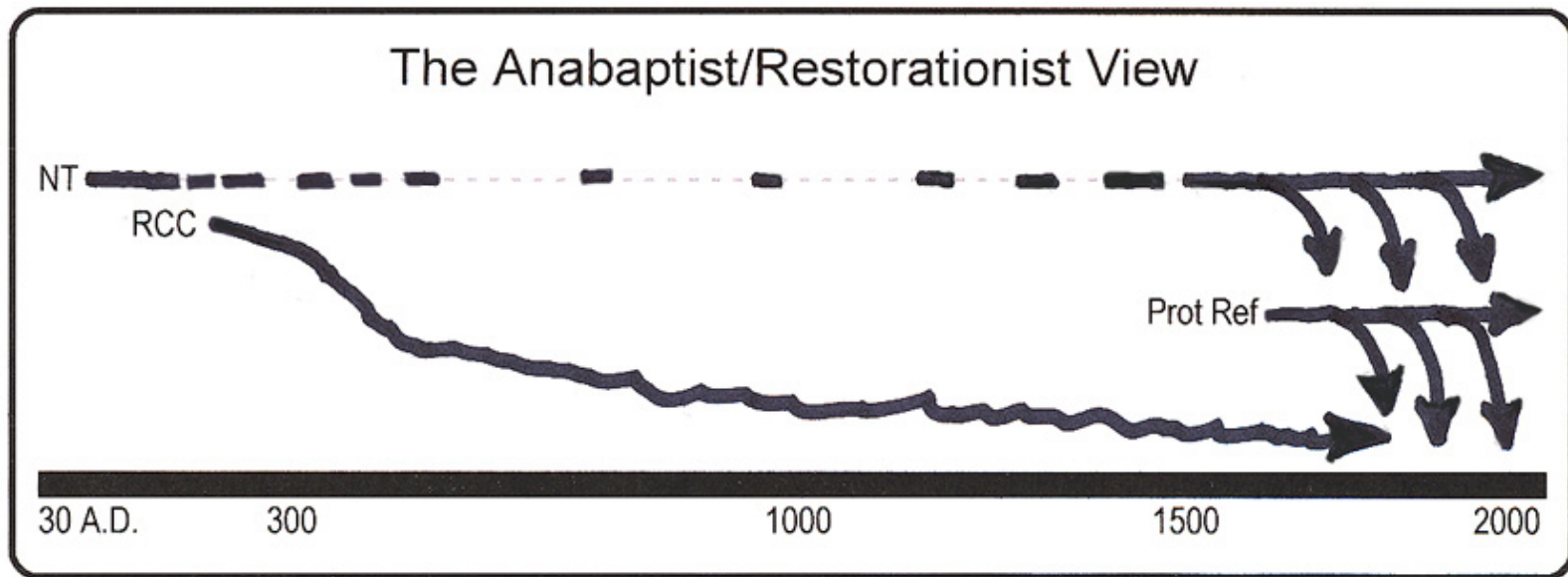
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Christian History: Three Interpretive Views



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Christian History: Three Interpretive Views



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The Real History of Christianity

Thesis:

- W. R. Inge: “The real history of Christianity is the history of a great spiritual tradition. The only true apostolic succession is the lives of [committed believers]. Clement of Alexandria compared the church to a great river, receiving effluent from all sides. The great river sometimes flows like a raging torrent through a narrow channel; sometimes it spreads out like a flood; sometimes it divides into several streams; and sometimes, for a time, it is driven underground. But [through it all], the...

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The Real History of Christianity

Thesis:

- “... Holy Spirit has never left himself without witness, and if we put aside a great deal of what passes for Church history (which is really a rather unedifying branch of secular history), and follow the course of the religion of the Spirit and the Church of the Spirit, we shall judge very differently the relative importance of events from those that merely follow the fortunes of institutionalism.”

[W. R. Inge, *Things New and Old* (1933), p. 57. Quoted in F. F. Bruce, *The Spreading Flame* (1958, 1979), p. 161.]

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The Protestant Reformation *What Every Christian Should Know*

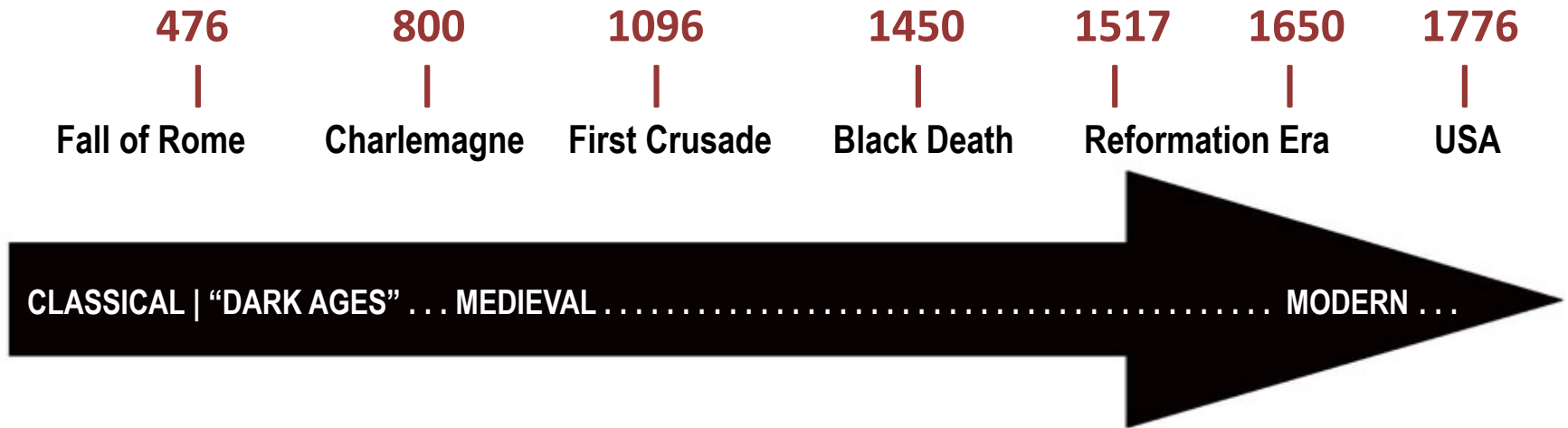
What?



A Survey of Christian History

What Was the Reformation?

Historically: A Transitional Era



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What Was the Reformation?

Religiously:

The Protestant Reformations were a series of (mostly) spontaneous religious renewal movements motivated initially by attempts to rectify doctrinal and ecclesiastical errors and corrupt practices within the Roman Catholic Church in order to reestablish the Bible as the sole (or primary) source of authority for Christians.

The Reformations fractured the unity in Western Christianity and resulted in a proliferation of new denominations and spiritual movements.

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The Protestant Reformation *What Every Christian Should Know*

Why?



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What Caused the Reformation?

The Major Controversies

(1) Ecclesiology:

- How should the Church be structured and governed, and what is the ultimate source of authority?
- The apostolic tradition v. the ecclesiastical tradition.
- Roman Catholic exclusivity: the “Mother Church.”
 - The “Ark of Salvation.”
- Monoepiscopacy.
- Apostolic succession.
- The priesthood.
- The papacy.
- The infallible Church.

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What Caused the Reformation?

The Major Controversies

(2) Theology:

- The doctrine of Justification.
 - Harold J. Grimm: “The Reformation had its inception in the search for the answer to the typical Medieval question, ‘How can I be saved?’” [*The Reformation Era*, p. 1]
 - Martin Luther: Justification is the doctrine “on which the church stands or falls.”
 - *Sola fide* v. “progressive justification.”

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What Caused the Reformation?

The Major Controversies

(2) Theology:

- The doctrine of Justification.
- Mariology.
- Transubstantiation.
- Purgatory.
- Penance and indulgences.
- Veneration of saints.
- Prohibition on laymen reading the Bible.
- The relics industry.
- Etcetera...

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The Protestant Reformation *What Every Christian Should Know*

The Legacy



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The Legacy of the Reformation

1. Religious Fragmentation
New Alternatives to Roman Catholicism.

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The Legacy of the Reformation

1. Religious Fragmentation



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The Legacy of the Reformation

1. Religious Fragmentation



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The Legacy of the Reformation

2. Religious Wars

German Peasants Revolt (1524-25).

Schmalkaldic Wars (1546-48; 1552-54).

Huguenot Wars in France (1552-98; 1621-29).

Dutch Wars of Independence (1566-1609;
1621-48).

Thirty Years' War (1618-48).

English Civil War (1642-48) and the War of the
Three Kingdoms (1639-51).

Persecutions of Anabaptists, Waldensians, etc.

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The Legacy of the Reformation

Europe's Religious Wars: 1524-1651 The Butcher's Bill

	Estimated War Dead
German Peasants' Revolt (1524-25)	100,000
Schmalkaldic Wars (1546-47; 1552-54)	?
Huguenot Wars in France (1562-98)	2 million - 4 million
Dutch Wars of Independence (1566-1648)	230,000 - 2 million
Thirty Years' War (1618-48)	4 million - 11 million
English Civil War and the Wars of the Three Kingdoms (England, Scotland, and Ireland, 1639-51)	875,000
Persecutions of Anabaptists	5,000 - 10,000
Persecutions of Waldensians	?
<hr/> Estimated Total:	<hr/> 8 million - 18 million

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The Legacy of the Reformation

European Population: 1500-1650
(in millions)

	1500	1550	1600	1650	Increase
England	2.3	3.1	4.2	5.5	+ 2.4
Scotland	.8	.9	1.0	1.0	+ 1.25
Ireland	.8	.9	1.0	1.5	+ 1.87
Scandinavia	1.5	1.7	2.0	2.6	+ 1.75
Portugal	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	+ 1.2
Spain	6.8	7.4	8.1	7.1	+ 1.04
France	16.4	19.0	20.0	20.5	+ 1.2
Switzerland	.6	.75	.9	1.0	+ 1.67
Italy	10.5	11.4	13.1	11.3	+ 1.08
Belgium	1.25	1.65	1.3	1.75	+ 1.4
Netherlands	.95	1.25	1.5	1.9	+ 2.0
Germany	12.0	14.0	16.0	12.0	0
Austria-Bohemia	3.5	3.6	4.3	4.1	+ 1.17
Poland	2.5	3.0	3.4	3.0	+ 1.2
TOTAL	60.9	68.85	77.9	74.45	+ 1.22

Source: Jan de Vries, "Population" in Thomas A. Brady, Heiko A. Oberman, and James D. Tracy, *Handbook of European History, 1400-1600* (Brill, 1994), p. 13.

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The Legacy of the Reformation

3. Religious Tolerance

The Cessation of Coercive Christianity.

- Charles Freeman: “It was from sheer exhaustion and horror at the atrocities and counter-atrocities that by 1648, Europeans... had to accept that the Almighty, for whatever reason, refused to signal which church teaches the true faith.”
- Rudolph Heinze: “Ironically, the religious wars played a major role in bringing about a degree of toleration, since neither party was able to...

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The Legacy of the Reformation

3. Religious Tolerance

The Cessation of Coercive Christianity.

- “... annihilate the other, and the participants emerged from these lengthy wars too exhausted to continue trying to achieve religious unity by the suppression of the opposition.” [*Reform and Conflict*, p. 377.]

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The Legacy of the Reformation

4. Secularism

A Simple (and Flawed) Premise:

- If the common people were liberated from Catholic superstition and repression; and
- If they could read the Bible for themselves and therefore understand what God expected of them; then
- They would be spiritually enlightened, their lives would be transformed, and civil society would become the kind of righteous community that God intended it to be.

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The Legacy of the Reformation

4. Secularism

A Simple (and Flawed) Premise:

- Rudolph Heinz: “If it was the objective of the Reformation to complete the breaking up of the medieval church, it certainly succeeded.... But if it was its central purpose to make people – all people – think, feel and act as Christians, to imbue them with a Christian mind-set, motivational drive and way of life, it failed.”
[*Reform and Conflict*, p. 401.]

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The Legacy of the Reformation

4. Secularism

Religious Skepticism.

- Rudolph Heinz: “The Reformation opened the door to other changes that would eventually produce modern society. One prime example is the growth of skepticism.” [*Reform and Conflict*, p. 401.]

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The Legacy of the Reformation

4. Secularism

Rationalism and the Enlightenment.

- The disestablishment of state churches.
 - Separation of church and state.
- Deism.
- The results:
 - Freedom *of* religion; and
 - Freedom *from* religion.

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The Legacy of the Reformation

4. Secularism

Rationalism and the Enlightenment.

- Jeffrey Breshears: “Generations of religious bigotry and bloodshed undermined the credibility and the appeal of Christianity in both Europe and England, and the sober truth is that religious liberty was eventually accepted not so much because of a new understanding of Christian social ethics as for two practical reasons: First, no single Christian faction could decisively eliminate its rivals; and second,...

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The Legacy of the Reformation

4. Secularism

Rationalism and the Enlightenment.

- “... secularism neutralized religious beliefs and passions to the point that most people no longer cared about doctrinal and denominational issues as they had in the past.” [Jefrey D. Breshears, “The Dark Side of the Reformation.”]

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The Legacy of the Reformation

The Summa

Was the Protestant Reformation Necessary?

- Jeffrey Breshears: “For those who value the credibility of the Christian faith and the freedom to proclaim the unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ, the answer must be a resounding ‘Yes.’ Nonetheless, we understand that history is complicated and often messy because God uses very fallible human beings to ultimately accomplish his purpose. The Reformation is a classic case-in-point: a bloody and bitter...

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The Legacy of the Reformation

The Summa

Was the Protestant Reformation Necessary?

- “... period in Western history that liberated large segments of Christianity from bondage to a corrupt and apostate Church. As Christians, we should cherish unity and actively pursue it. But we must also be cognizant of the fact that truth supercedes unity.” [Jefrey D. Breshears, “The Dark Side of the Reformation.”]

