

# Topics

- Introduction & Context for the Reformation
- Desiderius Erasmus and the Humanists
- Martin Luther & Germany
- ➔ • Huldrych Zwingli & Switzerland
- Reformation Radicals
- John Calvin & Geneva
- The Reformation in England
- The Reformation in Scotland
- Roman Catholicism during the Reformation
- Results of the Protestant Reformation

[www.rpchurchmanassas.org/drupal/ReformationChurchHistory](http://www.rpchurchmanassas.org/drupal/ReformationChurchHistory)

# Overview

- Biography
- Writings and Sermons
- Theology
- Contrast with Luther
- Heinrich Bullinger

# Huldrych Zwingli (1484-1531)

- Born in Wildhaus, Switzerland on New Years Day, 1484 (7 weeks after Luther)
- Member of peasant class but father was the local bailiff
- Education was humanist focused – influenced by Erasmus' Greek NT and interest in ancient church fathers
- Interests included language, literature, and music
- Ordained as priest and served as chaplain to Swiss mercenary soldiers
- Becomes disillusioned with indulgences and the Swiss mercenary system – Pope not happy



- Conversion to Protestantism gradual, not marked by any known single revelation moment
- Influenced by Luther but not “Lutheran”
- Nearly dies in 1519 plague
- 1519-1531 – Pastor at Grossmuenster, Zurich
- *Sixty-seven Articles* influential in Zurich choosing Protestantism (1523)
- Dies in battle in 1531
- Remembered as a Reformer and a Swiss patriot

# Writings and Sermons

Work	Driver / Cause	Key Points
The Clarity and Certainty of the Word of God (1522)	Began as a sermon preached to Dominican nuns at a convent	“We should hold the Word of God in the highest possible esteem...and we should give to it a trust which we cannot give to any other word. For the Word of God is certain and can never fail. It is clear and will never leave us in darkness.”
Sermon – The Shepherd (1523)	Disputations over whether Zurich should stay Roman Catholic or become Protestant	Contrasts Zwingli’s thoughts on the proper role of a Pastor as shepherd of the congregation with what he saw as weak church leadership at the time
Sixty-Seven Articles (1523)	Disputations over whether Zurich should stay Roman Catholic or become Protestant	<p>Puts forth principles of the <b>Reformed</b> faith in contrast to Roman Catholicism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Christ is the head of the church, the <i>only</i> high priest</li> <li>- Mass is a remembrance of sacrifice, not a sacrifice</li> <li>- Clerics who use Christ as a pretext for wealth and gain slander his name</li> <li>- Marriage is permitted to all human beings</li> <li>- Christians owe obedience to the Magistry as long as they do not command that which is contrary to God.</li> <li>- God alone remits sin through His son Jesus Christ</li> <li>- The scriptures know nothing of purgatory after this life</li> <li>- The scriptures know nothing of current [Roman] practices for consecration of priests</li> </ul>
A Commentary on the True and False Religion (1525)	Addressed to Francis I of France	Detailed contrast between scriptural Protestant religion with tradition and/or reason based competitors. Thoroughly covers a broad list of doctrinal topics.

# Theology

## Soli Deo gloria

**Exodus 20:3** - *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

Idolatry – Anything that takes away from the honor and glory of God

Sola fide

Sola gratia

## Sola Scriptura

**Isaiah 40:8** - *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*

*“The preached Word of God is the foundation upon which everything should be built” – Zwingli*

Solus  
Christus

# Contrast with Luther



## The Eucharist

Denies that the mass is a sacrifice and denies the priest's unique role but Christ's flesh is in, with, and under the bread.

"I'd rather drink blood with the papists than mere juice with the Zwinglians"

## Other Matters

- Worship – If not prohibited by the Bible, OK.
- God's rule – God is sovereign but Christians should focus on church and personal matters. Share the gospel and the rest will fall into place.



## The Eucharist

Christ's body is in heaven. He is present only spiritually ("by the contemplation of faith") at the Eucharist.

Are you a superstitious Papist?

## Other Matters

- Worship – If not called for by the Bible, not OK.
- God's rule – Extends over everything in life. Zwingli was much more involved in politics, economics, diplomacy, and war than Luther

**Luke 2:19** - *And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, **This is my body** which is given for you: this do **in remembrance of me.***

# Heinrich Bullinger



- Heinrich Bullinger (1504-1575)
  - Successor to Zwingli as pastor at Grossmuenster, Zurich
  - Widely Influential in Zurich and across Europe
    - ❑ Sermons
      - ✓ The Decades – Doctrinal contributed to spread of Reformation
    - ❑ Writings
      - ✓ Second Helvetic [Swiss] Confession (1566)
      - ✓ 12,000 letters

# Summary - Zwingli

- What should we remember?
  - All glory to God
  - Importance of Scripture vs. the Pope and Church tradition
  - Focus on Grace, Faith, Christ
  - God's rule extends over everything in life
  - Swiss Patriot