

The Protestant Reformation
Country Club Christian Church
October 2020 (Zoom)
Dr. Bill Stancil

October 12 Reform on the Continent and in England

October 19 The Anabaptists & Emerging Denominations

I. The Anabaptists (Radical Reformers)

A. Origins

1. Swiss Brethren (Felix Mantz, Conrad Grebel)
2. Mennonites (Menno Simons)
3. Hutterites (Jacob Hutter)

B. Theological Contributions

1. Believers' Baptism
2. Church Discipline (Ban, Shunning)
3. Pacifism
4. Separation of Church and State
5. No oaths

II. Emerging Denominations

A. Baptists

1. Origins

Numerous separatist groups protested the hegemony of the established Church of England. These groups went by various names: Dissenters, Nonconformists, Puritans. Specifically, the Baptists trace their origins to Thomas Helwys, who established the first English Baptist Church in 1611.

2. Theological Contributions

- a. Regenerate/voluntary church membership (gathered church)
- b. Believers baptism by immersion
- c. Local church autonomy (voluntary associations only)
- d. Emphasis on evangelism and missions

B. Methodists

1. Origins

John and Charles Wesley and the First Great Awakening (18th c.)

2. Theological Contributions

- a. Arminian theology (“free will” stream of thought)
- b. Diversity in styles of worship
- c. Dual traditions of social activism and personal holiness

III. The Lasting Legacy of Protestantism

A. The Authority of Scripture (*Sola Scriptura*)

B. Justification by Grace through Faith (*Sola Gratia/Sola Fide*)

C. The Priesthood of All Believers

D. The Unity of Word and Sacraments

E. The Christian Vocation (Calling)

F. The Church Reformed but Always Reforming (*ecclesia reformata sed semper reformanda*)