

Family History, Part 6 (Early Reformation)

Lesson 1 – Martin Bucer

Intro

The Protestant Reformation is celebrated as beginning in _____, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of Wittenberg Church. However, as we've seen in previous lessons, there was a lot of activity leading up to that moment and contributing to it.

Nevertheless, 1517 was a "tipping point," after which it became clear that there was no turning back.

In Part 6 will look at 4 of the key figures in the early days of the Reformation:

Oct 5 – Martin Bucer

Oct 19 – Ulrich Zwingli

Oct 12 – John Calvin

Oct 26 – Martin Luther

His Life

Born in the "Holy Roman Empire" (i.e., Germany) in 1491,

At age 15 he became a Dominican _____ (not his own choice).

Friars and Monks take the same _____ (poverty, chastity, obedience)

Monks, however, live in _____ communities while friars serve among the _____

He was studying and preparing for the priesthood, but began to be influenced by _____

In 1518, he first heard the teachings of Martin Luther and _____ with him and drafted a _____.

He continued, like Luther, trying to reform the church from _____

But in 1521 he was threatened with _____ for his beliefs, officially left the Dominicans

Also in 1521 – He tried to prevent Luther from attending the Diet of Worms (intending to _____ his life)

This enraged Luther, who thought Bucer wanted to _____ him; he forever _____ Bucer.

In 1522, while preaching in other towns, he was excommunicated and chased away.

In 1523 – Bucer moved to Strasbourg to serve as a _____ and organizer.

Two things about Strasbourg: 1) It was an imperial _____ city

Technically under the Emperor, but ruled by a city _____

Easier to influence and shape policy, so it became an early protestant _____

2) It is geographically _____ the area influenced by Zwingli (South Germany/Switzerland) and the area influenced by Luther (Central/Northern Germany)

In 1549, the Empire experienced the *Augsburg Interim*:

Emperor Charles, fearing that religious _____ made the kingdom vulnerable to Muslim invasion, forced a return to _____ practices.

Bucer fled to _____, teaching and advising the Protestant Reformation there.

1551 – Bucer dies in exile in England, but years later, under the Catholic Queen "Bloody" Mary,

his remains were exhumed and _____, along with his _____

Bucer's Influence

Though he held firmly to justification by _____, Bucer had a deep concern for proper _____.

Seeing Luther's rejection of the law as being an _____, Bucer believed Christians
"consent to [God's law] in their hearts and are moved by the Holy Spirit to live and behave according to it." (quote from Martin Greschat's biography of Bucer)

Unable to convince the Strasbourg leaders to apply stronger church _____,
he began organizing small groups that had a strong component of _____.

In the early years after breaking from the Roman Catholic Church,

Bucer had a strong hand in the formation of new _____ based on Scripture.

Bucer the Unifier

The main distinctive of Bucer is his heart for _____ among God's people in a time when groups were
dividing over issues that were sometimes _____ and sometimes _____.

Bucer often initiated meetings to try to _____ different sects and parties within the Reformation
and even between the Reformers and _____.

When crafting confessions and statement, he often pushed for using language that was more _____
when agreement between the opposing parties was impossible to attain.

1529 – Marburg Colloquy – A meeting between Luther and _____, hoping to unite them.

They could agree on almost every point except Christ's _____ in the Lord's Supper,

In the end, Luther _____ to shake hands, believing Bucer and Zwingli to be in deadly _____
(Bucer was later attacked in _____ by Luther, but Bucer refused to _____)

Note: Like many other people we will look at, Bucer is not without sins and flaws:

-he wrote government policy that called for poor treatment of _____

- he privately approved a case of _____ then tried to _____ about it when it became known

-he was quick to put unity _____ truth

Why don't we have a Bucer denomination or theology?

Though he wrote much (mostly pamphlets and tracts), he left no _____ works.

He was not interested in compiling a _____

He was opposed to creating distinct _____

Yet his fingerprints are all over the Reformation:

He tutored and influenced _____, who lived in exile in Strasbourg for years

In addition to influencing Calvin, he helped shape Anglicanism, Lutheranism, and Zwingliism,
never giving up hope that the members of the fractured body of Christ could be _____.