

The Counter Reformation and Council of Trent

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Marble Falls
Sunday, November 7, 2021
Sunday School Series: Reformation Studies
Lesson 3

Ignatius of Loyola

- Inigo Lopez de Onaz y Loyola (1490-1556) a Spanish soldier, underwent a “spiritual conversion” while recovering from wounds in battle and devoted himself to “the religious life.” Later he helped found the Society of Jesus in 1534.
- Priests in the Jesuit Order take a fourth (special) vow of absolute obedience to the Pope as sovereign. They are responsible mainly for teaching and missionary work for the Church.
- Motto: “Give me a child of seven and I will show you the man.”
- Counter-reformation – missionaries sent to re-convert Protestants to Catholicism

“Laying aside all private judgement we ought to keep our minds prepared and ready to obey in all things the true spouse of Christ, Our Lord, which is our Holy Mother, the Hierarchical Church.”



Jesuits are responsible for missionary efforts, writing catechisms, and establishing schools with the purpose of fighting heresy (mainly Protestantism) and serving at the will of the Pope.

Religion Overthrowing Heresy and Hatred



The female figure with a lightning bolt in one hand and cross in the other is the Roman Catholic Church.

The old woman represents hatred.

The man represents heresy and is falling over a book which has on its spine the name Luther.

The Cherub is gleefully tearing pages out of a book written by Zwingli.

Council of Trent

From 1545 to 1563, called by Pope Paul III, this Council was tasked as the 19th General Council of the Church to establish and define Catholic Doctrine, especially in reaction to the Reformation. They worked to reform worship so as to make it more appealing and also sought to reduce corruption within the priesthood.

Meetings were held in three phases: 1545-47, 1551-52, and 1562-63.

Pope Julius III was pope during phase 2. Pious IV confirmed the decrees of Trent at the end of phase 3.

The Inauguration of the Roman Inquisition followed to stamp out heresy wherever it was found.

Council of Trent

Rejecting Sola Scriptura:

Affirmed that the Bible, including the Apocrypha, was inspired and should be taught and that the Roman Catholic Church is the ultimate interpreter of Scripture. Holy Scripture and the Traditions of the Church both are Sources of Special Revelation.

Decree Concerning the Canonical Scriptures - If any one receive not, as sacred and canonical, the said books entire with all their parts, as they have been used to be read in the Catholic Church, and as they are contained in the old Latin vulgate edition; and knowingly and deliberately contemn the traditions aforesaid; let him be anathema.

Upholding the Doctrine of Free Will :

CANON V. If anyone shall affirm, that since the fall of Adam, man's freewill is lost and extinguished; or, that it is a thing titular, yea a name, without a thing, and a fiction introduced by Satan into the Church; let such an one be accursed!

Council of Trent

Rejecting Sola Fide:

CANON IX. If any one saith, that by faith alone the impious is justified; in such wise as to mean, that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to the obtaining the grace of Justification, and that it is not in any way necessary, that he be prepared and disposed by the movement of his own will; let him be anathema.

Council of Trent

Rejecting Sola Fide:

CANON XXIV. If any one saith, that the justice received is not preserved and also increased before God through good works; but that the said works are merely the fruits and signs of Justification obtained, but not a cause of the increase thereof; let him be anathema.

Council of Trent

Rejecting Sola Gratia:

CANON XI. If any one saith, that men are justified, either by the sole imputation of the justice of Christ, or by the sole remission of sins, to the exclusion of the grace and the charity which is poured forth in their hearts by the Holy Ghost, and is inherent in them; or even that the grace, whereby we are justified, is only the favour of God; let him be anathema.

Council of Trent

Upheld the Doctrine of Transubstantiation and the Mass as a true sacrifice of Christ every time it is observed.

Upheld that every sin must be purified, *even if it has been forgiven*, through Purgatory, Indulgences, and Penance.

Upheld Celibacy as a requirement for religious life (priesthood and nuns) and also required a standard education for all priests.

Upheld that the Church serves as Mediator through the Sacraments and set the number of Sacraments at 7.

Upheld and increased devotion and veneration of Mary and the Saints.

Council of Trent

If one believes, in agreement with the doctrine of Sola Scriptura, that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone – by decree of the Council of Trent, that one is anathema (condemned).

The declarations and anathemas of the Council of Trent have never been revoked. The decrees of the Council of Trent are confirmed by both the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and the official “Catechism of the Catholic Church” (1992).

The Anti-Christ?

Daniel 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws.

Consider:

The Council of Trent instituted the Gregorian Calendar, resetting leap years to better celebrate Easter – changing the set times).

The RCC holds to a different form of the 10 commandments – changing Laws. They remove the second commandment that forbids images, and split the 10th commandment into 2 commands, one to not covet your neighbor's wife, and another to not covet your neighbor's possessions.

Ten Commandments

Catholic	Protestant
I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.	You shall have no other gods but me.
You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.	You shall not make unto you any graven images.
Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.	You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
Honor your father and your mother.	You shall remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy.
You shall not kill.	Honor your mother and father.
You shall not commit adultery.	You shall not murder.
You shall not steal.	You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not bear false witness.	You shall not steal.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.	You shall not bear false witness.
You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.	You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.