

The Spread of Reform Ideas in Europe, Including England

**F. W. Mattox, *The Eternal Kingdom: A
History of the Church of Christ*, Delight, AR:
Gospel Light Publishing Company, 1961**

Anabaptists

- **In general, Anabaptists believed the church is composed of believers only**
- **They rejected infant baptism, believing it was an invention of man and altogether invalid**
- **They put church membership on the basis of personal faith and conscious submission to Christ in baptism**

Anabaptist Teachings

- **Most believed in rigid discipline for members of the church**
- **They believed church and state should be separate**
- **Most insisted on liberty of conscience and were willing for all people to have this privilege**
- **Some refused to take an oath in court on the basis of Jesus' statement, "Swear not at all."**

More Anabaptist Teachings

- **Certain Anabaptists went beyond Scripture and began to rely on “inner light”**
- **Most rejected the doctrine of predestination and emphasized freedom of the will**
- **In general, they believed in the autonomy of the local congregation**
 - **Each church should elect its own officers**
 - **Each should ordain its own leaders**
 - **Each should conduct its own business affairs**

Meno Simons

- **In the Netherlands, Meno Simons, a Catholic priest, studied Anabaptist views, turned his back on the priesthood**
- **He became the leader and the group took the name “Brethren”**
- **Simons emphasized church membership on the basis of personal conversion sealed by adult baptism**
- **He taught against Christians holding civil offices or bearing arms**

Teachings of Meno Simons

- **He said Christians should be obedient to rulers when they were not in opposition to requirements of God**
- **He believed there should be no state control of the church**
- **John Brown was influenced by Simons and returned to England to establish a new type of congregational worship there**
- **By 1611, there were many Anabaptists in England**

The Spread of the Anabaptists

- **Independent congregations began to simply call themselves “Baptists,” because the second generation of reformers had not received infant baptism**
- **Congregations were established in Germany, taking the name “Dunkards” or “Tunkards”**
- **Some of these took the practice of triune immersion and foot washing to America**
- **The Quakers, Mennonites, Dunkards and Baptists all had their origin in the Anabaptist movement**

Huguenots

- **In 1559, the first national assembly of French protestants was held in Paris**
- **The Callican Confession of Faith was adopted**
- **The government of France was under the domination of the papacy and by this year began to take action to halt Protestant growth**
- **Civil wars resulting from differences began in 1559, with 8 such wars occurring by 1597**

English Humanism

- **Grocyn brought humanistic principles into the University of Oxford**
- **Greek and a study of the classics was given a place in the curriculum**
- **Tomas Linacre went to Italy where he studied in a number of universities and became interested in medicine**
- **He obtained a degree in medicine in 1492 and returned to assist Grocyn at Oxford**

John Colet, an English Humanist

- **John Colet took a B.A. and an M.A. at Oxford and then went to Italy to study Greek, Law and the “Church Fathers”**
- **In 1496, he returned to teach Greek at Oxford**
- **He lectured as a layman on the theology of the apostle Paul**
- **He applied the new learning to an understanding of the Bible**

Sir Thomas Moore, an English Humanist

- **Sir Thomas Moore was encouraged by Linacre and financed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to do graduate study**
- **His best known work is *Utopia*, published in Latin in 1516**
- **He set forth the idea of a classless society where there would be freedom of thought and action**
- **This did much to prepare the English people for revolt against the authority of the hierarchy**

Break with the Pope

- **Henry VIII desired to divorce Catherine of Aragon**
- **Charles V, who was emperor, was a nephew to Catherine and pressed the pope to make a decision favorable to her**
- **Henry VIII broke with the pope and set himself up as head of the Church of England**
- **Thomas Cramner was made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533**
- **He pronounced Catherine's marriage to Henry void and his marriage to Ann Boleyn, which took place 3 months before, legal**

English Reformers

- **Reformers on the continent seized the opportunity by influencing parliament to draw up the “Ten Articles” in 1536**
- **There was no mention of transubstantiation and only 3 sacraments were referred to**
- **Prayers to the saints, veneration for the saints and prayers for the dead were removed entirely**

Henry's Response

- **In 1539, Henry had the “Ten Articles” revoked and replaced with the “Six Articles”**
- **Transubstantiation was clearly set forth**
- **Communion in one kind only**
- **Clerical celibacy**
- **Decreed vows of monastic celibacy were irrevocable**
- **The excellency of private mass**
- **The requirement of auricular confession**

Events Leading to Reform

- **Edward VI ruled through his uncle, the Duke of Somerset**
 - **A first and second prayer book were issued by royal injunction**
- **Mary, daughter of Catherine of Aragon, martyred 288 because of their refusal to acknowledge the pope as head of the church**
- **Cramner was condemned by papal bull and sentenced to be burned for teaching “the false and heretical doctrines of Wycliffe and Luther.”**
- **His death plus that of Latimer and Ridley actually turned the people toward the Reformation**

Translations of the Bible into English

- **1st printed NT – William Tyndale (1525)**
 - **The Pentateuch, Jonah and Psalms followed**
 - **The Bishop of London bought and burned them as they came from the continent**
 - **Made from Erasmus' 3rd edition Greek text**
- **Miles Coverdale translated from Jerome's Latin version (1535)**
- **Matthew's Bible, mainly from Tyndale**
- **The Great Bible (1539) was ordained to be set up in all the churches – people had to stand in line to read**

Things Included in Translations

- **Calvinists prepared the NT in Geneva (1557)**
 - **First with chapters and verses**
 - **Whittingham, a Greek scholar, used italics to indicate supplied words**
- **The Bishops Bible, revision of the Great Bible (1568)**
- **To settle difficulties arising from so many variant readings, the Hampton Court Conference (1604) proposed a translation**
- **King James immediately named a committee with 47 doing the actual work**

New Discoveries Impacted Translation

- **Important manuscripts were discovered**
 - **Codex Alexandrianus, Codex Sinaiticus enabled the Greek text to be revised**
- **This led to a revision for greater accuracy**
- **Committee of 1870 was established with English and American scholars**
- **NT published (1881)**
- **American Revision Committee brought out a version in keeping with American usage (1901)**

Various Groups

- **Romanists withdrew from the English church after Pope Pius V (1570) excommunicated Elizabeth, declared the throne vacant**
- **Dutch Reform arose from Duke of Alva's persecution of followers of Calvin and Zwingli (1567)**
- **Drove Dutchmen to England, augmented by Huguenot families who took refuge in England**
- **Norwich Robert Brown taught a large group of Calvinists who became known as the Congregational Church**

Presbyterian

- **Thomas Cartwright (1570) came to Cambridge to lecture against the Episcopacy**
 - **Expelled from University, migrated to Antwerp**
 - **Issued “Admonitions to Parliament” in which he attacked the Church of England**
 - **Resulted in 1st Presbyterian Church**
- **John Knox became the leader of the Scotch Reformers**

John Knox

- **John Knox preached against ornaments, statues and stained glass**
- **Civil war broke out involving both France and England**
- **Knox effective leader of Scotland at end**
- **Scottish Parliament proceeded to give statutory effect to Knox's teachings, abolished the Episcopacy and Presbyterianism was established**