

Forks in the Road

- I. Disagreement about the Sacraments
 - a. Pretty much agreed Baptism and Communion were 2 of the 7 sacraments they would keep
 - b. Disagreed about "real presence" of Christ's body
 - i. Luther: of course! Jesus said so
 - ii. Others: no, Jesus was pointing to his body, not bread
- II. Zwickau Prophets in Wittenberg
 - a. Divine Revelation by the Spirit to inner selves
 - b. Elimination of all priests
 - c. Inspired by Dreams
 - d. Kicked out of Wittenberg, but influenced Karlstad
- III. Andreas Bodenstein von Karstadt
 - a. "2nd person" of the Wittenberg Reformation
 - i. Views on Communion diverged from Luther
 - ii. Renounced all academic degrees, left Wittenberg
 - b. Caught between two fronts during Peasants War, sought refuge with Luther
 - i. Luther made him stop writing, but Karstadt eventually left
 - c. Became leading figure in Basle and influenced every branch of Reformation, from Lutheranism, to Calvinism, to Spiritualism, to Anabaptists, to Pietism
- IV. Thomas Muntzer
 - a. Inspired Zwickau prophets when he was town preacher there (1520)
 - b. Gas on the fire of the Peasants Uprising (1524-26)
 - c. Justified violence as a way of bringing God's will to earth
 - d. Captured in battle and was executed

- V. Rise of the Anabaptists (Rebaptizers)
 - a. Didn't believe in infant baptism – only for believers
 - b. Early Anabaptists believed in the militant takeover of the world
 - i. Institute Christian Theocracy
 - c. Later, under Menno Simons and Jacob Hutter, withdraw from society and only associate with the righteous
- VI. Rise of Pietism (late 1600s)
 - a. Influenced by Karlstadt, emphasizing inner growth and life of disciple
 - b. Philipp Jacob Spener and Pia Desideria
 - 1. *A more serious attempt to spread the Word of God.* Pastors should preach from the entire Bible and Christians should meet in small groups to study the Bible.
 - 2. *The Lutheran doctrine of the priesthood of all believers should receive a new emphasis.* The differences between the laity and clergy should be minimized. The clergy in particular should recognize that their calling involves Bible study, teaching, reproving and consoling and a personal, holy life.
 - 3. *More attention should be given to the cultivation of individual spiritual life.* Love for God and man should take priority over theological disputes. Knowledge is secondary to practice.
 - 4. *Truth is not established in disputes but through repentance and a holy life.*
 - 5. *Candidates for the ministry should be "true Christians."* Their training should include small groups for devotional life and personal Bible study.
 - 6. *Sermons should not show the preacher's erudition,* but attempt to edify believers and produce the effects of faith.

Bibliography

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- Dowley, Tim. *Atlas of the European Reformations*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015.