

The History of the Reformation of the Church in the 16th Century and Its Influence on the Church Today

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Abstract

The history of the reformation of the church is a very long and very memorable history for the church. The Reformation was an attempt by the reformers to return the church to biblical authority. The life of the church before the reformation was very far from the truth of the Bible, where church leaders carried out deviations and heretical teachings. Many church leaders take advantage of their position to gain profit, for example the sale of a pardon. Luther invited people at that time to turn to the true teachings of the Bible. Outside of Martin Luther, there were also reformers who continued Luther's work, namely John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli. After 500 years of church reformation, the church today is still feeling the effects of the reformation although there are still churches that deviate from the teachings of the Bible. The church reformation changed wrong mindsets and views and brought believers to the true truth of the Bible. The results of the reformation brought believers to the true knowledge of Jesus Christ. The situation before the reformation and after the reformation is very different, where the entire leadership in the church has been changed. Leaders in the church today are not only governed by the pastor but also by people who have been chosen and determined.

Keywords: reformation history, 16th century, church, believer's life

INTRODUCTION

The Indonesian nation is a nation full of history and has a very hard struggle to achieve independence. ± 350 years this nation experienced oppression and very bad conditions, both in terms of economy as well as in terms of education and health until 1945 Indonesia experienced independence. Why are Indonesians being colonized? Because the Indonesian nation is a nation that has a lot of wealth. Both culturally and naturally, it has so much wealth, and the land is so fertile that it can produce various crops that make other countries want to dominate Indonesia. That is why people in 1595-1945 suppressed the Indonesian people in order to dominate the Indonesian nation. In its struggle, the Indonesian people cannot be separated from the support from various institutional elements in the community of the Unitary State of the Republic of

Indonesia. One of the institutions that participate in fighting for the independence of the Republic of Indonesia is religious institutions.

Likewise in the church, the church has such a long history. Starting from the early church, the medieval church to the modern church today. In its journey the church has a black record for having committed irregularities, for example the emergence of letters for the abolition of sins and the crusade. The crusade is an act of blasphemy against the name of Christ and a war with impure motives and divided hearts. The crusade was seen as an expression of sincerity in serving Christ, but it was mixed with conflicting motivations, with the wrong expression of religious zeal.¹

At that time, the church seemed to intend to serve two masters: a spiritual master and an earthly master. It turned out that the spiritual circles of church leaders had also been wrong because of a mistake in interpreting the Great Commission, because Christians at that time, equated God's command to Israel to conquer the "Promised Land".² Due to the overpowering of the church in the Middle Ages, many high-ranking church officials deviated from power to reap their own benefits. Church officials deviated from the teachings of the Bible.

Church officials displayed behavior that was far from chaste and godly. Many live in the splendor of luxury and immorality. Servants, coaches, and shepherds to the people are highly respected because humans are considered to have automatically become members of the church since their birth. This situation worries many people, including a number of clergy who are still trying to maintain order in life and the purity of church teachings.³

The deviation that occurred at that time was also a political problem, which was a power struggle. The church feels more powerful than the state, and on the other hand the state considers itself the most powerful of all activities in the state, including the church. However, the state and the church should be able to work together and go hand in hand.⁴

With this condition, there are people who want to restore the truth, namely the reformers of the church. The church is a place where the Word of God is preached,

¹B.K. Kuiper, *The Church In History* (Malang: Gandum Mas, 2010), 131.

²Jonathan E. Culver, *Sejarah Gereja Umum* (Bandung: Biji Sesawi, tt), 218.

³Jan Sihar Aritonang, *Garis Besar Sejarah reformasi* (Bandung: Jurnal Info Media: 2007), 7.

⁴B.K. Kuiper, *The Church In Historin* (Malang: Gandum Mas, 2010), 13.

because in and through the preaching of the Word of God God Himself acts and works.⁵ The term "reform" immediately gives the impression that something, namely Christianity, is being renewed.⁶ Christianity when it was renewed meant that something had happened that had to be changed to be different from before.

The reformation occurred could not be separated from the emergence of various reformers who had fought for the church to return to the truth. Among them Martin Luther was a leader of the church reform movement in Germany. The history of the reforms carried out by Martin Luther in 1517 cannot be separated from the background and development of the religious field. Another figure is John Calvin, a leader of the reform movement in Switzerland.⁷

Zwingli was a reform leader in Switzerland, while it was booming in Germany, there was also a revival in Switzerland, under the leadership of Ulrich Zwingli. Unlike Luther, Zwingli never became a monk, his conversion was also not a difficult process, the process was slow that Zwingli understood the scriptures first and how the Catholic church separated from him.⁸

With regard to the problems that the church had faced in the 16th century, does the church today still experience the same problems? The answer is still. Reformation has taken place but leaders in the church today are still doing things that are not in accordance with the truth. For example, in the election of the church board, sometimes it happens before the election of the board is to conduct a campaign as is done during the election of government in the country.

In this age there are heretics who name the church for their own benefit, for example. The lukewarm church life was made worse because many pastors were less aware of the call of their faith as pastors, the clergy was only considered a profession.

Corruption and syncretism also occur in the church, even the church's rank is lower than customary law and government. Church positions were obtained in unnatural ways. Servants of God corruption, sex (adultery) has occurred in several churches, examples of corrupt servants of God in Surabaya as much as 4.7 trillion are

⁵Dietrick Kuhl, *Sejarah Gereja* (Malang: Yayasan Persekutuan Pekabaran Injil Indonesia, 1998), 35.

⁶Alister E. McGrath, *Sejarah Pemikiran Reformasi* (Jakarta: Bpk Gunung Mulia, 1997), 2.

⁷Jan Sihar Aritonang, *Garis Besar Sejarah Reformasi* (Bandung: Jurnal Info Media, 2007), 5.

⁸A. Kenneth Curtis, J.Stephen Lang, dan Randy Petersen, *100 Peristiwa Penting Dalam Sejarah Kristen* (Jakarta: Gunung Mulia, 2001), 77.

used for personal interests and for business.⁹ Another example is that a pastor at City Harvest Church had to be jailed for corruption in the church. The court found him guilty of using collection money or congregational offerings to support his wife, Sun Ho's musical career. A servant of God has also committed an affair, namely Franky Sihombing. Franky is not the only servant of God who is caught in the problem of sexual sin. The problem is, according to Christianity Today, an estimated 400 Christian leaders (pastors, staff, deacons, elders) share the services of the affair site, including R.C. Sproul Jr., who is the second generation of Ligonier Ministries.¹⁰

Through the problems above, the author is interested in writing this article with the title "The History of the 16th Century Church Reformation and Its Influence on the Lives of Believers Today." With the formulation of the problem as follows: first What was the background of the church reform movement in the 16th century? Second, what is the history of the church reformation in the 16th century and its influence in that century? Third, how did the 16th century church reforms affect today's believers?

METHODS

The writing method used in this article is a descriptive qualitative method with the type of historical research. This descriptive qualitative method is not based on numerical data, but comes from literature related to the topic of writing. From the sources of these literatures, the author discusses historically, which describes the analysis of several reform figures and arranges them chronologically. From the results of this analysis, the author implies the impact of the influence of these reform figures on the church today.

DISCUSSION

The 16th century church reformation was a renewal of the church. The Reformation brought about changes in the church for the better. Each church teaches certain doctrines, and has its own form of government, worship and life. Changes for the better must occur in various aspects of the church, but reformation is not only changes

⁹<https://regional.kompas.com/read/2013/03/11/19424221/Dugaan.Korupsi.Dana.Gereja.Rp.4.7.Triliun,Diunduh19Oktober2021>

¹⁰Deny Hen. "Perselingkuhan Seorang Hamba Tuhan." *Warta Pemenang*.
<https://wartapemenang.wordpress.com/2015/09/05/perselingkuhan-seorang-hamba-tuhan>, diakses 5 Februari 2021.

that occur in the church. The Reformation also brought about certain changes outside the church. First of all, reform in the church must also bring about changes in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of nations that have their own principles.

The Background of the Church Reformation Movement in the 16th Century

Religious Factors

For several centuries, the Catholic Church has not seen Jesus, "My Kingdom of this world." As a matter of fact, the church actually plays a dominant role in political, economic and defense life. The dominance of this role is seen in the placement of the Pope who is like a great noble; bishops act as judges; the padre sat in the ranks of the bureaucrats. At that time, the coffers had ballooned even more due to the swift flow of donations and the sale of pardons. Should that revenue stream begin to stagnate, the state and church authorities act immediately by issuing threats of excommunication and a dreadful threat of hell. Church deviation that occurs is the practice of buying and selling indulgences or forgiveness of sins by the Roman Catholic Church. At that time in Europe, the Roman Catholic Church sold promised pardons to those who had died someday. The money from the sale of this pardon is used by the Roman Catholic Church to build churches like St. Peter's Church in Rome. This practice has been criticized by many theologians and monks for being an abuse of power and incompatible with Christian teachings.¹¹

Education Factors

In the pre-reformation era, the church was very important in the life of the congregation at that time, people at that time depended on the church and what the church said was all considered true. At that time the world enjoyed by church leaders and society was also shaken because of the discovery of two kinds of technology that had a tremendous impact, namely people discovered the secrets of making paper and printing machines using loose letters.¹²

¹¹Agus Santoso dan Bobby Kurnia Putrawan. "Pelayanan Pastoral: Perspektif Para Reformator." *Kontekstualita*, Vol.36, No.1: 1-20. <http://e-journal.lp2m.uinjambi.ac.id/ojp/index.php/Kontekstualita/article/view/36.1.1-20>.

¹²Robert R.Boehlke, *sejarah Perkembangan Pikiran Dan Praktek Pendidikan Agama Kristen* (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 1998), 267.

At that time also appeared the intellectual discovery of a Polish astronomer named Copernicus (1473-1543). As a result of his observations and calculations and not because of the power of the church, Copernicus concluded that it was the sun that was the center of the universe and not the earth, as had long been thought so. Copernicus that the earth rotates on its axis and simultaneously revolves around the sun. Copernicus was afraid of a response from the church leaders which is why Copernicus did not write down his discoveries until his old age. Just as he breathed his last, on May 24, 1543, the publisher sent his revolutionary book to Copernicus. Although technically these findings were not published before the fire of the Reformation, the style of thinking that appeared in Copernicus was already the beginning of part of the intellectual atmosphere that contributed to the possible reform of the 16th century.¹³

Political Factors

In the socio-political field, since the end of the 15th century the ideals of all Christians under the leadership of the Pope have faded. Many kings wanted to regulate the affairs of their respective countries or territories, and no longer wanted to recognize the claim to supremacy of the church or the pope over the state. Kings did not like to submit to the Emperor, and the Emperor was more often seen as a stooge of the Pope than as a unifying figure for Germany.¹⁴

The Leaders of the Reformation

Jhon Wycliffe

John Wycliffe was a pioneering figure in the reform movement in England in the 14th century.¹⁵ Wycliffe was an educated man of his day.¹⁶ Wycliffe was also known as a Scholastic Theologian and was quite close to the British rulers.¹⁷ Wycliffe was born in England in 1320. Wycliffe studied at the University of Oxford, and later became a professor at that institution. In 1376 he began to criticize church officials, saying that wealth and political power were so damaging to the church that a radical reform was needed. Wycliffe said the church should return to the poverty and simplicity of apostolic

¹³Ibid, 268.

¹⁴Jan Hajar Arintonang, *Garis Besar Sejarah Reformasi* (Bandung: Jurnal Info Media, 2007), 13

¹⁵F.D. Wellem, *Riwayat Singkat Singkat Tokoh-Tokoh Dalam Sejarah Gereja* (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 2003), 191.

¹⁶Kenneth Curtis, DKK, *100 Peristiwa Penting Dalam Sejarah Kristen* (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 2001), 97.

¹⁷Jan Sihar Arintonang, *Garis Besar Sejarah Reformasi* (Bandung: Jurnal Info Media, 2007), 7.

times. Wycliffe said that the Bible is superior to the church, which should be the sole rule of faith.

Johanes Hus

Johanes Hus was a pioneer of the church reform movement in the 14th century. Johanes Hus was born into a farming family, Hus was an avid reader of books.¹⁸ Hus graduated from the University of Prague and was ordained a priest in 1402.¹⁹ When Hus became acquainted with Wycliffe's writings, Hus began to preach boldly against corruption among church officials. Long before Hus' birth, strong opposition to the Roman church had developed in Bohemia. There were many Waldenses in the city. Because of this, Hus' Sermon received a fervent response among the people in general and among the nobility. Hus opposed almost all of Bohemia with his views.²⁰

Savonarola

Savonarola was a devout and zealous Dominican monk, who adhered to the tradition of teaching his order. Savonarola was a preacher and the tone of many people who often flocked to listen to his sermons. Savonarola was appointed the new ruler, and an amazing change took place. People take off everything that smells of extravagant lifestyle including fancy clothes. But Savonarola had attacked the pope and other worldly monks. Pope Alexander in particular, was the father of a number of illegitimate children.²¹

From these three pre-reform figures, we can learn from them how their lives were. To be successful people we must have good character, not only intelligence but character is also needed starting from us small. We have a good character we will be liked by the people around us.

The character of a proletarian teenager, besides being influenced by his own personality, is also influenced by environmental factors, such as school, family,

¹⁸F.D. Wellem, *Riwayat Singkat Singkat Tokoh-Tokoh Dalam Sejarah Gereja*, 98.

¹⁹Jan Sihar Aritonang, *Garis Besar Sejarah Reformasi* (Bandung: Jurnal Info Media, 2007), 8.

²⁰F.D. Wellem, *Tokoh-Tpkoh Dalam Sejarah Gereja* (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 2003). 98.

²¹A. Kenneth Curtis, DKK, *100 Peristiwa Penting Dalam Sejarah Kristen* (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 2001), 73.

community and playmates, because wrong in getting along will result in a proletarian teenager not having moral values in him.²²

Influence On Emphasizing Bible Authority

Before the Reformation, the church was very dependent on the Pope, meaning that the congregation at that time followed the Pope's rules. The congregation at that time did not realize that the Bible is the basis of a believer's life. The benchmark at that time was the Pope and became the highest authority and that was the anxiety for the reformers. Sola scriptura means "only by the Bible." Only the Bible is the benchmark for faith and theology. Luther himself realized that the church's teachings had to return to the scriptures. That is the teaching of Luther which is still held intact by believers today.²³

If the Bible and church traditions conflict with each other, then we must obey the message of the Bible more.²⁴ The Bible is the authority (power) in Christianity because it is the inspired word of God. But not only the Bible is the authority in Christianity, but in a journal entitled Sabbath and work: a work theology perspective says that good works can be seen from the point of view of God, who is right and active and his goodness.²⁵

The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: "All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness. Thus every man is equipped for every good work "(2 Timothy 3: 16,17).

The Influence of Understanding The Meaning of Salvation on Sola Gratia

Sola gratia is one of the sola which is a summary of the teachings of the reformation of the church. Sola gratia has understanding only by His grace. This teaching was created by Martin Luther with the aim of distinguishing the teachings

²² Sutrisno, dkk. Penerapan nilai karakter bagi kaum proletar usia remaja di yayasan kemah kasih. Jurnal pengabdian dan pemberdayaan masyarakat ISSN: 2656-369X (print), 2684 8570 (online) volume 3 No.2, desember 2021,

<http://abdi.ppj.unp.ac.id/index.php/abdi/article/view/123>, <https://doi.org/10.24036/abdi.v3i2.123>

²³Alister E. McGrath, *Sejarah Pemikiran Reformasi* (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia), 174.

²⁴Ibid, 45.

²⁵ Pengumbahas, Napitupulu, Sabat Dan Bekerja: Suatu Perspektif Teologi Kerja, Vol.1, No.1 (October 2020): 47-61. <https://jurnal.moriah.ac.id/index.php/rerum/article/view/1/21>

found in Protestant Christianity from Roman Catholicism. Sola gratia also means that humans are not worthy before God whose rank is the creator of humans.

Sola Gratia means "only by grace". Man is justified and saved by God not on the basis of his goodness or piety. But by the grace of God alone, which is manifest in Jesus Christ. Man is a sinful human being before God. God's gift is the source of salvation. The understanding of Sola Gratia is influential in the church today. The Church understands that believers are saved not by human effort itself but by God's grace to man. It is God's gift that is given to human beings so that they can be saved.

The Influence of Understanding Will Mean Sola Fide

Sola Fide means "only by faith." Man is justified and saved only by faith. Faith in the sense of trusting oneself in the grace of God. Faith is not a good work on the part of man. Believers today acknowledge that believers are saved only by faith. Not because of human works or human works but because of faith in Jesus Christ as the living Savior.

Sola Fide teaches that human salvation can only be obtained from justification by faith alone. This teaching is a reaction to the teachings that emphasize human salvation lies in human good deeds. In addition to the teachings that emphasize good deeds, this is also a criticism of the pre-Reformation Christian church which teaches that salvation is only in the church. One of them is seen in the practice of confessing sins in front of the church by buying indulgences by paying the church. The reformers argued that man's salvation was only by the grace of God, not by human effort. If humans do good, it is only in response to God's love that has been present in the world in the human form of Jesus Christ. Man is forgiven of his sins if he has faith in God in Jesus Christ.

The impact of church reform is also felt today is the understanding of salvation. Believers are becoming increasingly aware that it is not human actions that save people. Salvation comes only from God. The Reformation also led to many translations of the Bible into various languages so that everyone could read and understand the Bible. Believers can also distinguish which church practices are starting to deviate and are not in accordance with Bible teachings.

The Influence of the Church in Understanding the Meaning of the Sacraments

The Protestant Church only recognizes two sacraments, namely Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.²⁶ Baptism is a sign of forgiveness and new life. Baptism signifies that the believer has participated in Christ's death and resurrection and that the believer has become one with Him. Baptism is at the same time a sign that the believer enters into the fellowship of the church. According to Calvin, baptism is not a condition, but a seal that signifies that a person has received forgiveness of sins and salvation on the cross of Christ.²⁷ The influence of understanding the sacrament in the church today is the church's return to the Bible and a correct understanding of the sacrament. The Church today understands that the sacraments are not administered to obtain salvation and as a religious obligation but as a sign that is sealed as the body of Christ.

Influence In Awareness Preaching the Gospel

From the start, the Protestant churches did not completely ignore missionary work. In fact, during the first two hundred years after the reformation, the strength of the reformers was spent largely in the struggle against Catholicism and religious wars. At the beginning of the 18th century, a new era opened up in the history of Protestant missions. Frederick IV, king of Denmark, wanted to establish mission centers in his Indian colonies. Pietism, with its emphasis on the issue of saving souls, agrees very much with that mission.²⁸

Francke, as a professor at Halle University has awakened the spirit of evangelism in the hearts of his students. So when Denmark, looking for missionaries to send to its colonies in India, he found these missionaries among Francke's students in Halle. During the 18th century, no more than sixty missionaries went from Halle University to mission fields abroad. The most famous of them is Cristian Friedrich Schwartz. Cristian Friedrich Schwartz Preached the Gospel in India from 1750 until the end of his life in 1798.

Without evangelism the church will cease to grow, it may even die soon. Evangelizing is a believer's effort to convey the gospel of God's grace to an unbeliever. The word gospel usually has two meanings. The first understanding, shows the life history of the Lord Jesus Christ in this world as revealed by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and

²⁶Harun Hadiwijono, *Iman Kristen* (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 1992), 426.

²⁷Jan Sihar Aritonang, *Garis Besar Sejarah Reformasi* (Bandung: Jurnal Info Media, 2007), 123.

²⁸ Bobby Kurnia Putrawan dan Ludwig Beethoven Jones Noya. "Piety in Thoughts of John Wesley And Friedrich Schleiermacher." *Jurnal Jaffray*, Vol.18, No.1 (2020): 59-72. <http://dx.doi.org/10.25278/jj.v18i1.426>.

John. The second sense refers to the ultimate goal of the incarnation of the Son of God, namely the redemption of man through his death and resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15). But the main theme emphasized by the Gospels is also that which was revealed at the climax of His life for the salvation of mankind from sins. The purpose of evangelism is to bring people to Christ to enjoy the peace of salvation that God offers to all, while presenting a witness to the Christian life.

Influence in the Ecumenical Movement

Before the church reformation, it was not seen that there were so many church denominations, but a split occurred in the 9th century, namely the Western Church centered in Rome (Roman Catholic Church) with the Eastern church (Eastern Orthodox Church) centered in Constantinople.²⁹ The split did not give rise to many denominations because at that time the Roman Catholic Church was the center of the church. The reformation of the church gave rise to much of the existing dedomination and issues of different theological views and ambitions contributed to the split. The church reforms of the 16th century caused divisions in the church between the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church when Martin Luther protested the teachings of the church which he considered more deviant from the truth.³⁰

The Roman Catholic Church rejected what was conveyed by Luther and there were divisions and various sects emerged that followed the teachings that were considered correct. Martin Luther posted 95 theses at the door of the Wittenburg church, the main problem presented by Luther was the issue of iustificatio, justification, namely how humans are justified by law. God. Luther maintains that justification is a free gift from God, because humans are not capable of trying to justify themselves.³¹

The impact of reforms is very influential at this time both positive and negative. The positive impact is returning the teachings to the authority of the Bible and the negative impact is that the church at this time is easy to divide. There was a split in the church because of doctrinal differences. The difference lies in the doctrines for example the doctrine of salvation and the doctrine of baptism. There are groups of Christians who see the baptism of Jesus Christ by immersion, but there are other groups who see it

²⁹John B. Pasaribu, *Konsepku Membangun Bangsa Batak* (Sumatra: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia, 2012), 120.

³⁰Ibid, 120.

³¹Y.B Prasetyantha, *Ekaristi Dalam Hidup Kita* (Yogyakarta: Kanisius, 2011), 72.

as a baptism by sprinkling or shedding of water. The group that adhered to it as a baptism of immersion, eventually named themselves as a Baptist denomination even though in fact the establishment of a Baptist denomination was not only based on this difference.

These differences encourage to form new denominations and implement all the features and characteristics of their beliefs in ways of worship, singing, preaching, fellowship, evangelistic missions and others. At first glance these differences in teachings and beliefs are not visible in the sermons and services, but in the statement of faith, all the differences are contained. Sometimes the congregation of a denomination does not know the differences that the church has. Commonly known to the congregation is the difference in the order of worship.

The existence of denominations and church divisions therefore needs a solution to this situation is the ecumenical movement by looking at the greatest interests of all denominational interests, namely the mission of God being carried out with full responsibility by the churches. With the ecumenical movement, it is hoped that communication and interaction between God's people and denominations will be able to leave their isolation. Thus the ecumenical ideal in Christianity is expected, that the denominations together build strong fellowship in one unit as the body of Christ without highlighting each other's dogma/doctrine.

The influence of the Liturgy of Worship

The legacy of the reformation of the church gave a change that not only pastors had to read the Bible and pray but councils and congregations were usually allowed, which had been determined to take part in worship in prayer and Bible reading. In Protestant churches a standard service system has been established. The liturgy aims to connect worship with everyday life. So, the liturgy or worship service is very important in worship because the liturgy leads believers to open their hearts and listen to God's voice by involving the congregation to take part in worship.

Church Discipline for Congregational Deviants From the Truth

Church discipline is currently very strict, the purpose of church discipline is to teach the congregation to live holy lives before God. The implementation of church discipline is very important so that the congregation has faith and fears God. The

churches at this time will provide church discipline for congregations who commit violations. For example, a congregation who commits adultery or becomes pregnant out of wedlock. The goal of church discipline is to glorify God through obedience to His Word. Another goal is to prevent the sins committed by one member of the church from spreading to other church members.

CONCLUSION

Reformation is a renewal carried out by church reformers to return the church to God's authority. The history that the church has gone through is not an easy one where the church has experienced many challenges both from within and from outside. This means that the church has done things that are very far from God's will where the church has deviated. Deviations that occur in the church, keep God's people away from the presence of the Father.

God has used Reformers to restore all true teachings that is the Bible. On October 31, Martin Luther succeeded in sparking a reformation and became history in the church that will not be forgotten by all believers. It was not only the church that was renewed at that time but outside the church also needed renewal, in the fields of politics, economics, and education. In the political field, many mistakes have occurred. In the socio-political field, since the end of the 15th century the ideals of all Christians under the leadership of the Pope have faded. Many kings wanted to regulate the affairs of their respective countries or territories, and no longer wanted to recognize the claim to supremacy of the church or the pope over the state. Kings did not like to submit to the Emperor, and the Emperor was more often seen as a stooge of the Pope than as a unifying figure for Germany. Reformation has passed but the fire of reformation must continue to flow in the life of the believer. The church has experienced renewal and the church has returned to true teaching.

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