

Reformation Group Activity

Comparing the Confessional Traditions that Emerge from the Reformation

Lutheran State Churches

(You may include the Anglican Church in this category)

Anabaptist Fellowships

Calvinist (Reformed Geneva and/or Presbyterian Scotland)

Roman Catholic (Specifically following the Council of Trent but you may incorporate older traditions)

Each group will be assigned a different question. You will be asked to share your results with the class.

1. Describe and find or draw a picture of worship space in each of the traditions. Use a statement of doctrine from an author of the period from each confessional tradition that explains this type of worship space in practice.
2. Compare the idea of “sacredness” or “sacred space” in each of the traditions. Why does this idea matter? Use a statement of the period by one author from each confessional tradition as prooftexts for your conclusions.
3. Compare the means of salvation in each of the traditions. Use a statement of the period by one author from each confessional tradition as prooftexts for your conclusions.
4. What sacraments are recognized by each confessional tradition? Why? What does a sacrament mean in each of the traditions. Use a statement of the period by one author from each confessional tradition as prooftexts for your conclusions.
5. Diagram how each of the traditions are organized, governed, or “disciplined”. How have these structures changed or stayed the same in examples of modern churches related to each of these confessional traditions?
6. How is music used and expressed differently in each of the traditions? Find printed score examples and audio clips to play from each tradition to demonstrate your conclusions.
7. Create a multiple stream timeline or flowchart showing 16 major events of the reformation from the posting of Luther’s 95 theses through 1570 (We will deal with the Wars of Religion in France and Germany next week.) Be sure to include at least two events from each confessional traditions. Annotate your timeline identifying why each event is significant.