

Ordained a priest in 1506, Ulrich (or Huldreich) Zwingli (1484–1531) was an admirer of Erasmus and used the Dutch humanist's 1516 edition of the Greek New Testament to enrich his knowledge of the original text. Unlike Luther, Zwingli experienced no acute religious crisis; he became a reformer through his studies. In 1518, he was elected preacher at the Minster in Zurich, Switzerland.

The start of the Swiss Reformation is credited to Zwingli's sermons on the New Testament preached in 1519. In 1523, before the council of Zurich, Zwingli presented and defended his doctrines in a public disputation. His theses included establishing the Bible as the sole basis of truth and rejecting the authority of the Pope, the Mass, saints, fasting, and clerical celibacy. Supported by the city council, Zwingli's church reforms were rapidly put into effect.

Zwingli developed his characteristic interpretation of the sacraments in a series of published sermons that contributed to the development of a Reformed theology. In 1524, he publicly celebrated the marriage he had contracted in 1522. Zwingli was a dominant political as well as ecclesiastical force in Switzerland and is considered to be one of the more liberal Reformers.

Scripture: "But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts." (1 Thess. 2:4).

Inset: Title Page of *A Short and Clear Exposition of the Christian Faith preached by Huldreich Zwingli, written shortly before his death to a Christian King*, (Zurich: Christopher Froschower, 1532).

The term "Reformation" describes a series of changes in Western Christendom between the 14th and 17th centuries. Protestant denominations celebrate the last Sunday in October as Reformation Sunday to commemorate a significant event in their history. It was on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg.



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“Even so we speak...”

1 Thessalonians 2:4



Reformation Sunday