



Fundamental ideas of the Reformation

In the following you can find main sentences from Protestant reformers. In your enquiries you may come across further interesting quotations which you can add to the collection below.

- „Each Christian has to comply with the truth which the Holy Spirit has explained in the Holy Scripture - either directly or indirectly.”

Jan Hus, De ecclesia (1413)

- „The love of God does not find, but creates what is adorable. [...] It loves sinful, evil, foolish and weak people, to make them just, good, wise and strong, and so it pours out and shares good. This is why sinners are beautiful, as they are loved; they are not loved because they are beautiful.”

Martin Luther, Heidelberg Disputation (1518)

- „A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to every one.“

Martin Luther, The Freedom of a Christian (1520)

- „All Christians are truly in a spiritual state and there is no difference between them apart from to the capacity of the office. [...] So we all are consecrated by baptism priests.“

Martin Luther, An Open Letter to The Christian Nobility (1520)

- „Recognizing Christ means to recognize his benefits.“

Philipp Melancthon, Loci communes (1521)

- „No other task is so pleasing to God as the exploration and the dissemination of truth and justice. [...] Therefore, there can be no doubt that the life form of teaching and learning deserves the greatest pleasure of God; this is why the schools should be given preference over churches and courts of princes as there can be found a stronger striving for truth.”

Philipp Melancthon, De laude vitae scholasticae oratio (1536)

- „In short and simply said: If you like fasting, do it! If you will do it without meat, then do not eat meat! But I wish that Christians are free to choose!”

Huldrych Zwingli, Von Erkiesen und Freiheit der Speisen (1522)

- „You are God's tool. He calls your service, not your rest.“

Huldrych Zwingli, First Zurich Disputation (1523)

- „In his unfathomable goodness, God himself has designed everything in a way, that everything for His glory it useful for our salvation as well.“

Johannes Calvin, Genfer Katechismus (1545)

- „Do you want to get certainty whether you are chosen? Then see yourself in Christ! For all who are truly connected with Jesus Christ in faith, may be quite sure that they belong to the circle of those elected for eternity and among his children.”

Johannes Calvin, Von der ewigen Erwählung Gottes (1551)

- „Indeed, if we see how the rays of sun shine on the earth and to some extent pass their substance to them, to father, nourish and refresh their offsprings, why then the rays of Christ's spirit should be of lesser capacity.“

Johannes Calvin, Institutio Christianae Religionis (1559)

- „The scripture portrays everywhere Christ as humble, meek, merciful, just, holy, wise, spiritual, slow to anger and patient, peaceful, loving, obedient and all right alone, indeed the perfection of all things. Look, this is the image of God or Christ, which the mind sees and which we should be aware of always, until we become the same by nature and show it by our way of life.“

Menno Simons, Die geistliche Auferstehung (1538)

- „A man with God is always in majority.“

John Knox (1514-1572), Inscription on the Reformation monument in Geneva

- „For men's religion to God is between God and themselves. The king shall not answer for it. Neither may the king be judge between God and man. Let them be heretics, Turks, Jews, or whatsoever, it appertains not to the earthly power to punish them in the least measure.“

Thomas Helwys, A Short Declaration of the Mystery of Iniquity (1610)

- „But the Lord showed me, so that I did see clearly that he did not dwell in these temples which men had commanded and set up, but in people's hearts.“

Georg Fox, The Journal of George Fox (1647)

- „Remember, my soul, this great word: If Jesus beckons, go; if he pulls you, hurry away; if Jesus holds you, stand!“

Nikolaus von Zinzendorf (1700-1760), Choral

- „Consequently, he [the Methodist] does everything for the glory of God. [...] Whether he is dressing or working, eating and drinking or relaxing after hard work, everything is directed to increase the glory of God among men by peace and good will.“

John Wesley, Kennzeichen eines Methodisten (1742)

- „The Saviour would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one might be saved in His kingdom.“

Ellen G. Gould, The Desire of Ages (1898)

- „Any man that is saved and sanctified can feel the fire burning in his heart, when he calls on the name of Jesus.“

William J. Seymour, Sanctified on the cross (1906)

