

Issue	Roman Catholic	Luther	Zwingli	Calvin	Anabaptists
Means to Salvation	Faith and Works (“works” referred to receiving the sacraments and G-d’s grace from the Church through an ordained priest as well as to a moral life and good deeds)	Faith alone, which allowed G-d’s mercy to be revealed Denial of free will (even outright rejection of it)	Similar to Luther	Faith alone, but rejection of free will went to the point of “predestination” understood as necessary given the “radical depravity” of humankind and mighty glory of G-d	Same as Luther
Clergy	A group separate and apart, capable of bringing G-d’s grace to the laity who were unable to receive it on their own	Priesthood of all believers--No priest necessary for an individual to receive grace, but “pastors” served to led and protect the faithful	Similar to Luther	Similar to Luther (but a strong sense that the morally upright must lead)	No “priests” or “pastors” Services usually led by elder members of the community
Hierarchy and Organization (Church governance)	Strict hierarchy from Pope down to parish priest or individual monk—all decisions made at the top (periods of controversy relating to Church councils)	No central individual authority Administration through bishops; decisions made by synods representing congregations	No central authority No bishops Decisions made by individual congregations and/or representative councils of congregations	“preachers, teachers, elders and deacons” within congregations; representative “presbyteries” (councils) for overall decision-making	No hierarchy; no organization Each congregation separate and autonomous
Authority (basis for theology, ritual, practice)	Bible; Church councils; papal bulls ; patristic writings	Bible alone	Same as Luther	Same as Luther	Same as Luther but taken much more literally
Sacraments in general Purpose and basis	7—necessary for salvation and receiving G-d’s grace; must be performed by ordained priest (baptism, confession, marriage, holy orders, Eucharist, last rites, confirmation)	2 (baptism and communion) expression of personal commitment as a Christian and membership in Christian community (only 2 participated in by Christ personally)	Same as Luther	Same as Luther	Same as Luther

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Sacrament of Baptism	Infant baptism	Infant baptism	Same as Luther	Same as Luther	Adult baptism (since Christ was baptized as an adult—it needs to be a conscious act of commitment to the Christian church (church here is defined as those who are true believers))
Meaning and Nature of Sacrament of Eucharist/Communion	Transubstantiation (bread and wine become the body and blood—central mystery of the Catholic faith)	Consubstantiation (bread and wine become “as if they were” the body and blood—no miraculous transformation but a spiritual communion with Christ)	Re-enacted as a memorial and expression of membership in Christian faith	Elements of Zwingli but some sense of Luther’s spiritual communion	Same as Zwingli
Relationship of Christian/Church to secular authority	Problematic RCC preached “universality” and key to salvation; continuing issues with secular authorities over power, but frequently exercised secular power and expected to be obeyed as secular authority and at times worked with and supported secular authorities to create a powerful dual authority with similar goals (e.g., Spain and Inquisition)	Christian duty to obey the legitimate secular authorities and their laws (“render unto Caesar...”); strong belief that the people have no right to rebel against the legitimate authorities and should never take up the sword to enforce their religious beliefs	Tended to a theocratic model (secular leaders to be guided by faith and advice of pastors)	Totally theocratic model—leaders to be devout Christians and laws to be based on Christian belief and morality. In this case no distinction between G-d’s and man’s law. In cases where leaders are not devout or laws are lax, Christian lives to the higher standard. Sees a right to disobey or reject G-dless leadership—lesser magistrates may take up the sword against greater ones	G-d’s law over all; no swearing allegiance to an entity other than G-d; refusal to bear arms and join military; in some cases refusal to pay taxes or obey in any way “ung-dly” secular authorities; total separation of Church (defined as body of true believers) and State