

What Catholics think about the Reformation

Have you ever had a conversation with a Catholic about the Reformation? How did it go? What did you learn about how Catholics think about the Reformation?

Looking for reasons to defend their Faith *in the Catholic Church* – Defeater beliefs.

What are some of the reasons Catholics give for the Reformation?

King Henry wanted a divorce – Henry was a Catholic – he died a Catholic

Luther wanted to get married – The Nuns were getting kicked out of the nunneries into destitution – Luther encouraged the Priests to marry nuns as a way of caring for them.

The Church just needed a moral clean-up not a theological reformation

How would you respond to this? What is your aim?

What are some of the reasons Catholics give for rejecting the Reformation?

Schismatic and individualistic – Luther, a Catholic priest was kicked out of the Catholic church first.

Sola Scriptura and Christian unity - Look at all the Protestant churches now. If we all say the Bible is our authority then we have unity with diversity, but if you add an additional authorities then you have disunity.

Bible Alone = Literalism – We are not literalists. Many Catholic arguments require a literalistic interpretation – “This is my flesh” or “unless you eat my flesh you shall not have life in you”

Church gives us the Canon ... against Luther ...

against Calvin – the self-authenticating Canon – the history of the development of the Canon is that it was recognised by Christians well before the Council of Jamnia

Justification – Legalistic pedantry. James 2.24 – You see that a man is justified by his works and not by faith alone. Joint Declaration between Catholics and Lutherans

How would you respond to these?

Other Arguments

Trent and the Counter Reformation – The Jesuits

Prominent Protestant converts ... Did you know that thousands of Catholic Priests have happily become protestants – *Catholicism – Faith in Crisis DVD. Stepping Out in Faith*

An Old Fight – Let’s just read the Bible together

References – Reasons to Believe – Scott Hahn, The Protestant Dilemma – Devin Rose