

Protestants

Protestant ideas first became popular in Europe through Martin Luther and the 95 Theses before Henry VIII decided to make England a Protestant country. Luther's ideas became popular because

Many people heard and understood Luther's ideas

- Other preachers heard his ideas and repeated them in their own churches
- The printing press had recently been invented so for the first time books and pamphlets could be copied and shared quickly
- Luther used cartoons in his pamphlets so even though most people couldn't read, they understood the meaning of the pictures

People were interested in his ideas and wanted change

- Many thought the Pope and Italy were too powerful and liked that Luther wanted to challenge this
- Powerful princes were happy that Luther wanted the government to control taxes and not the church
- Luther used humour in his writing and made his ideas easy to understand

Henry VIII was strongly Catholic, but he liked Luther's Protestant ideas because

- He wanted to have a son and an heir, and his wife Catherine was getting older.
- He wanted a divorce so he could marry a younger wife who might have a son. The Catholic faith did not allow this but as a Protestant he could get a divorce
- If he started a new church he would be in charge of it and not the Pope
- The Catholic church was very wealthy. If Henry became head of the church in England he would control that wealth
- Some people in England believed in Protestant ideas and thought the Catholic church was corrupt

Key Terms

Protestant	Excommunicate
Catholic	Dissolution
Protestant Reformation	Monastery
95 Theses	Mass
Indulgences	Puritan
Heretic	Bishop
Martyr	Corruption

Differences in Beliefs

	Catholic view	Protestant view
Decoration of churches	People should glorify God by decorating churches with ornaments, statues and stained glass windows.	Churches should be simple and plain. Decoration distracts people from God's message so there should be no statues, stained glass windows or paintings.
Priest's role	Priests should be different than ordinary people and people need priests to find God and it is their role to explain the word of God to the people	Priests should be chosen by the community and should wear simple clothes. Church services should be in English and people don't need priests to explain the Bible to them.
The Bible	The Bible should be in Latin. This has been the language of the church for hundreds of years and it makes the service special.	The Bible should be in English so that everyone can read and understand it.

1517	Martin Luther's 95 Theses begins Protestantism
22 June 1527	Henry VIII wants a divorce from his wife Catherine but she refuses.
Autumn 1529	Some of Henry's advisors suggest that Henry be the Head of the Church in England.
11 February 1531	Henry makes England Protestant instead of Catholic and is declared Supreme Head of the Church in England.
8 June 1536	Henry VIII begins the closure of all monasteries.
1538	After Henry VIII broke with the Catholic Church, Pope Paul III excommunicates Henry
1545	Henry decides to go back on some of his changes to the religion. He is concerned that commoners should not be able to read the word of God as they could be disrespectful.
1547	Henry dies and Edward VI becomes king. Protestant reforms under Edward VI begin straight away. All images in churches are removed. Stained glass windows, shrines and statues are all to be dismantled. Church bells are taken down and vestments are prohibited.
1549	The Book of Common Prayer is published in English. (The Bible)
6 July 1553	Edward VI dies, naming his cousin, Lady Jane Grey, as his successor. He disinherited Mary as he did not want the country returning to Catholicism.
19 July 1553	Mary I becomes queen and puts plans in place to make England Catholic again. It takes Mary a while before England is accepted by the Catholic church.
February 1554	Protestant rebellion led by Sir Thomas Wyatt the Younger.
1555	Mary restores heresy laws and begins to punish Protestants more harshly
16 Oct. 1555	The Protestant churchmen Latimer and Ridley are burned at the stake.
17 Nov. 1558	Mary I dies childless leaving the throne to her sister Elizabeth.
13 Jan. 1559	Elizabeth is crowned Queen of England.
29 April 1559	The Elizabethan Religious Settlement is passed by Parliament.
1570	Elizabeth I is excommunicated from the Catholic Church.
24 March 1603	Queen Elizabeth I dies and the Tudor dynasty ends.