

5-3-1 Assignment on Gonzalez, Essential Guide, Ch. 1

Questions:

1. what is encomienda?
2. which three uses of the law declared by reformed theologians?
3. What's Luther's theology?
4. What's New Jerusalem?
5. What is the high point of the Catholic reformation?

Answers:

1. Encomienda also called trusteeship. It's a system whereby a number of natives were "entrusted" to a settler who would take responsibility for teaching them the rudiments of the Christian faith. In exchange for such a service, the natives were to work for their trustees. Needless to say this became a thinly veiled form of slavery.
2. The reformed theologians declared three uses for the Law: a guide to the Jewish people, an instrument to convict all of sin, guide Christians and Christian nations in their personal and corporate lives.
3. After a long spiritual pilgrimage, Luther finally came to the conviction that salvation is by grace, through faith. This led him to protest against the sale of indulgences, and against all the theology that undergirded it. His own theology, based on his understanding of the Word of God, soon led in directions which conflicted with traditional theology on several points. One of which was the authority of the church and its traditions vis-à-vis Scripture, which Luther held to be supreme. Another was the manner of Christ's presence in the Sacrament—although Luther agreed with traditional Roman Catholic doctrine that Christ is physically present in the Eucharist, he didn't accept the doctrine of transubstantiation, which by then was accepted dogma of the church. Finally, Luther's own experience of dissolve monasteries and convents, and to insist on the holiness of common life--- that is, non-monastic life.
4. New Jerusalem was the city of Munster, where the radical Anabaptists took power, expelled the bishop, and set up a theocracy which they then declared was the "New Jerusalem". The movement grew increasingly radical, until the city was taken by the armies supporting the bishop, and the "King of the New Jerusalem" was captured.
5. It was the Council of Trent, which due to a complex series of political circumstances lasted almost 18 years. It condemned various Protestant positions, reaffirmed Catholic doctrine, and took several steps toward the moral and administrative reformation of the church. Given the nature of the Protestant challenge, the Council of Trent was the first council to tackle practically every subject in Christian theology.

Terms:

1. Anabaptists: rebaptizers.

2. Anglican: or Epsicopal. In England there was a different sort of reformation, which while following the theology of Protestantism, retained its ancient traditions regarding worship and church governance. This is the Church of England, from which come the various churches that are today called “Anglican” and “Epsicopal”.

3. Discalced Carmelites: Saint Teresa of Avila, with the collaboration of Saint John of the Cross, directed a reformation of the Carmelites, resulting in the foundation of the “Discalced Carmelites”.

Summary:

Along with the conquest of Americas, the church became very much involved into the enterprise. And at the meantime, however, the church also raised lots of voice of protest, declaring that the entire enterprise was evil. There came the movement of reformation which led to more new orders and movements.