

Spread of
Lutheranism

Brandenburg (including the infamous Albrecht) had become Lutheran along with Hanover, Frankfurt, Augsburg, Ducal Saxony, and many others. It was increasingly evident that most of Germany would soon be with Luther.

The Council of Trent

Most of our notes on the Council of Trent are reserved for our discussion of the Counter-Reformation. But at long last the cry of the evangelical voices was answered (to some degree) when Paul III called a council to convene at Trent in April, 1546. The group actually would meet over the next two decades in three "plenipotentiary" sessions. It became the solidifying body for the Roman church and gave force and direction to that organization. In particular it would dignify tradition in the authority role and speak strongly against justification by faith.

FURTHER NOTES ON LUTHER AND HIS MINISTRY

Luther's Relationships with some Key Persons

Luther and Erasmus

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Luther
and his
Ministry

In the early days of his understanding, Luther had a genuine admiration for Erasmus and to some extent there was a reciprocation of the feeling. In earlier times Erasmus defended Luther's right to speak but he did it quietly in accord with his own character and our earlier observation. He did not follow the Augustinian theology, however, and his work FREEDOM OF THE WILL greatly irritated Luther who responded with BONDAGE OF THE WILL. ...a strongly Augustinian sentiment with great emphasis on sovereignty and election. It was only the first of many issues in which they would disagree...the ultimate one being the need of separation in the ecclesiastical borders and Luther's strong stress on justification by faith alone.

Basically the outlooks of Luther and Erasmus were not compatible. Even if they had agreed on other things this would have been true. Erasmus was intrinsically cynical but tranquil...Luther was energetic and emotional. Luther was a man of cause while Erasmus was a man of thought. Luther's marriage upset Erasmus and there was never a reconciliation