

Footstep #15 - Luther Among Friends - Heidelberg - 1518

Many of The Ninety-five Theses were statements supported with the “proof” of “Explanations” that Luther wrote, others were discussed and debated in Luther’s congregation. Luther’s statements were printed and within weeks he was the most famous man in Europe! (George L. Mosse. *The Reformation*, p. 26) The impact of the Ninety-five Theses might be compared in our lifetime to the reception the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. received as a result of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 or the negative reaction to the Dred Scott decision supporting slavery in 1857. Luther became a leader representing hope and change! The history of Europe could never go back as Luther presented a solution to a church and society that was in a spiritual and economic crisis. ***“It is possible to look at the entire sixteenth century as not merely a crisis over the means of interpreting the Christian religion but as a crisis of belief about that religion itself.”*** (Richard Marius. *Thomas More*. P. 268)

The first step was for Luther’s colleagues, the intellectual Catholic elite, to test his arguments against the truth! In Heidelberg, Luther uses a new scholarship by basing every argument on God’s Word in the *Holy Bible*. For Luther, this was the only standard for measuring the truth.

“In April 1518, as he first explained his theology to his Augustinian brothers from across Germany in a meeting held in Heidelberg, he distinguished between God “hidden” and God “revealed.” The distinction formed a part of his “theology of the cross,” which he teaches that coming to know God’s true nature requires the crucifixion of human reason’s attempts to fathom the Divine. It also teaches that the climax and apex of God’s revelation of his nature came on Christ’s cross.” (Kolb, *Luther and the Stories of God*, p. 2)



The Heidelberg Disputation