

### **Footstep #43 - Coming Together: *The Augsburg Confession* - June 25, 1530**

1530 was not a good year for Emperor Charles V as the Muslims from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) were advancing into the eastern part of his empire threatening the survival of Christianity. In addition, the Reformation was now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year and the Protestant faiths were divided, especially after the failed attempt at The Marburg Colloquy between Luther and Zwingli. In short, Emperor Charles V called for a special Diet (meeting) in 1530 in an effort to force unity of the Protestants and the Protestants and the Catholics into a united religion.

1530 was not a good year for Martin Luther either as this year marked the death of his father, he was not permitted to attend the Diet of Augsburg, and he knew the risks of rebellion, disorder, and warfare. Luther also knew the dangers of entering a political alliance as favored by Prince Philip of Hesse. At the Diet (a huge meeting of the major dignitaries, including Emperor Charles V, and church leaders), Philipp Melanchthon read *The Augsburg Confession*, a concise statement of the major doctrines and teachings of the "Lutheran" religion. One might say that the Lutheran religion officially started on June 25, when The Augsburg Confession was read in public.

Martin Luther would not compromise on matters of faith, the pope, and The Lord's Supper. The major players (Eck and the Archbishop of Mainz) Luther debated against in Leipzig in 1519 sought moderation and compromise. The future of the empire depended on the unity of Christians. The failure to reach a compromise directly leads to the decline of the Holy Roman Empire along religious lines and the empire will be divided a century later in 1648.

***"Therefore, the two authorities, the spiritual and the temporal, are not mingled or confused, for the spiritual power has its commission to preach the Gospel and administer the sacraments. Hence it should not invade the function of the other, should not set up and depose kings, should not annul temporal laws or undermine obedience to government, should not make of prescribe to the temporal power laws concerning worldly matters. Christ himself said, "My kingship is not of this world," and again, "Who made me a judge or divider over you?" (Article XXVIII: 12)***

Martin Luther was the first person to introduce the revolutionary idea of the separation of the church and state, a basic freedom in America and in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Luther lived about 100 years before Roger Williams (colony of Rhode Island) who is the one associated with the separation of church and state.