Church History

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The Church in Need of Reform

## I. The Problems

## The abuses of the papacy

### Claim to supreme power (e.g. political skirmishes and Great Schism)

### Lavish lifestyles (improper accumulation of wealth with taxes and indulgences)

### Immoral lifestyles—affairs with mistresses

### Simony—the buying and selling of church offices

### Disregard for Scripture—claimed authority over Scripture and squelched availability of Scriptures to common people

## The abuses of monasticism

### Lax, leisurely living

### Sexual immorality

## The abuses in theology

### Sacramental view of salvation—people gain favor with God through certain external rituals

#### Infant baptism

#### Mass—sacrificial view of Lord’s Supper

#### Confession and penance—sins were confessed to priests, who “absolved” the sins, and “charged” certain payments to that person so they could “make up” for their sin

#### Other meritorious actions: pilgrimages, indulgences, relics, images, last rites

### Elevation of Mary and other saints—these became the object of prayers

### Purgatory

### Use of violence and force