Church History

**Martin Luther**-Conflict and Divergence

1. Introduction: Partly because of the printing press, partly because of the growing dismay at the problems in the Catholic Church, and partly because of the nationalistic spirit of the German people, Luther’s 95 Theses made a big splash and soon came to Pope Leo X’s attention.
2. Steps toward Luther’s break with the Roman Catholic Church
   1. Meeting with Cardinal Cajetan in Augsburg in 1518
      1. Cajetan demands that Luther recant without a debate about his ideas; Luther refuses
      2. Luther leaves town at night to escape arrest
   2. Debate with Eck, a crafty professor, at Leipzig in 1519
      1. Debate centered on the authority and the supremacy of the pope
      2. Eck managed to get Luther to admit that he agreed with Huss on some issues
   3. Pope Leo X excommunicates Luther in 1520
      1. In a papal bull entitled *Exsurge Domine,* he said, “Arise, O Lord, and judge Thy cause. A wild boar has invaded thy vineyard.”
      2. Martin Luther publicly burned the copy of the bull that reached him, finalizing his break with the Roman Catholic Church
   4. Diet of Worms—Emperor Charles V, displeased that a condemned heretic was exerting such influence in his territories, called Luther to an imperial meeting called a diet at the city of Worms in 1521
      1. He was asked if he would back down from the teachings that disagreed with the Catholic Church. Luther’s response: “My conscience is captive to the Word of God. I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither honest nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.”
      2. This stand brought Luther into danger of being arrested and executed by the empire, but a few days after leaving Worms, Luther was kidnapped by friends and secretly taken to a castle where he could hide until the storm died down.
3. Establishment of an independent German church (what became the Lutheran Church)
   1. After leaving his hiding place, Luther helped to establish a church based on his ideas
   2. The Lutheran Church became one of the first Protestant groups to be formed