

1 **Early Swiss Anabaptism**

2 **Anabaptism grew rapidly in Switzerland and nearby regions of Germany.**

- These early Anabaptists were united by their views on baptism, but disagreed on other matters.
 - All agreed that adults, not infants, must be baptized in obedience to the Bible.

3

- There was disagreement on the role of government and the use of violence.
 - Some, such as Balthasar Hubmaier, worked for government support of Anabaptism.
 - Some Anabaptists hoped for political freedom from the authorities over them, and some joined the peasants led by Müntzer in their revolt against the nobles.
 - Others, including Conrad Grebel and Felix Mantz, rejected all violence.

4

- There was disagreement on what it means to be spiritual.
 - Some, like Müntzer, emphasized the work of the Holy Spirit in believers' lives, revealing truth in addition to the teachings of the Bible.
 - In extreme cases, some claimed a spiritual freedom to act however they saw fit.
 - Others stressed the teachings of Scripture as the Spirit's message to believers, and said that the Spirit's work would result in a righteous life.

5 **Weakness and Struggle**

- By 1527, the Anabaptist movement had been greatly weakened by this disunity and by persecution.
- The peasants' revolt was crushed in 1525, and many Anabaptists who had joined it or were sympathetic to it were killed or returned to a church supported by the government.
- Peaceful Anabaptists also suffered.
 - Their reputations were damaged by the violence of others.
 - Governments saw them as a threat to the unity of society.
 - Governments considered it their duty to stamp out "heresy."
- Many Anabaptist leaders were imprisoned, killed, or forced to flee.