

FACES OF THE REFORMATION

The leader of the Roman Catholic Church who saw Luther as just another heretic to easily dismiss



POPE LEO X
(A.K.A. GIOVANNI DE' MEDICI)

Born: Dec. 11, 1475 |
Florence, Italy

Died: Dec. 1, 1521 |
Rome, Italy



REFORMATION
2017 It's Still All About
Jesus

LutheranReformation.org

GIOVANNI DE' MEDICI WAS A MEMBER OF THE FAMOUS MEDICI HOUSEHOLD IN FLORENCE, ITALY. His father, Lorenzo the Magnificent, raised his sons to be patrons of the arts. As the second son, Giovanni was steered to a life within the church. Due to his family's connections, he was named a cardinal at age 17 and became pope at 37, taking the name Leo X.

Leo continued the work of his predecessor in building St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and soon found himself in financial straits due to his extravagant construction spending and costly wars with France. To raise money, he approved the sale of indulgences (the practice of purchasing a document of forgiveness). This caused Martin Luther to fear for the souls of his flock in Wittenberg, Germany. If forgiveness could be bought, true contrition for sin would be lost. Luther sought a public debate on the topic when he posted his 95 Theses. Little did Leo know that his legacy would not be the building of the basilica or his political maneuverings, but his refusal to truly listen to the concerns of a little-known monk from Wittenberg.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
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