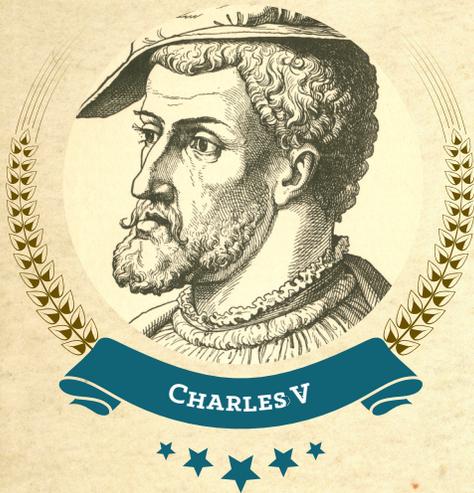


## FACES OF THE REFORMATION

### CHARLES V

Born: Feb. 24, 1500 | Ghent, Belgium

Died: Sept. 21, 1558 | Yuste, Spain



REFORMATION  
2017 It's *Still* All About  
**Jesus**

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## The Emperor who risked all to suppress the Turks and Lutheran Princes

**SOME PEOPLE INHERIT SILVERWARE; CHARLES V INHERITED MOST OF WESTERN EUROPE. UNFORTUNATELY, MOST OF WESTERN EUROPE WAS AT WAR WITHIN AND WITHOUT WHEN HE TOOK THE CROWN AT AGE 20.**

When Charles was six, his father died. Charles' mother, known as Joan the Mad, was mentally unstable. Thus, Charles was raised by his aunt in France. When King Ferdinand of Spain, Charles' grandfather, died in 1516, Charles was named King of Spain at age 16, giving him charge over Spain as well as the newly-discovered land in the New World. When Emperor Maximilian, Charles' other grandfather, died in 1519, the two main contenders for the title of Holy Roman Emperor were Charles and Francis I of France. Since Charles had deeper pockets with which to gain the electors' favor, in 1520 he was elected over Francis, who never ceased to give Charles political trouble during his reign. Because war with both France and the Turks took most of his attention, the growing Protestant movement was pushed to the back burner.

Charles had been emperor only a few months when the Diet of Worms was held in 1521, where Luther famously said that he would not and could not recant. Charles issued the imperial Edict of Worms labeling Luther an outlaw with a price on his head. Even though Charles, a devout Catholic, thought he was carrying out the wishes of the pope, the pope was offended by Charles' action, since the pope had already excommunicated Luther. The Emperor was continually caught between the Catholics and the Protestants, and spent the rest of his reign trying to reconcile the two within his lands. Although the Diet of Speyer in 1526 had tolerated the Reformation, Ferdinand, acting as the regent of his brother, Charles, pursued less conciliatory measures at the Second Diet of Speyer in 1529, declaring Catholicism to be the religion of all imperial lands. The Lutheran contingent at the Diet protested this arrangement, leading to the use of the name "Protestant".

Charles called for another Diet in 1530, this time in Augsburg. Due to the Edict of Worms, Luther was not able to attend, but rather traveled with Melancthon and others as far as Coburg. On June 25, the *Augsburg Confession*, a statement of Lutheran doctrine signed by the assembled princes, was read before Charles V. The Reformation now had teeth; the princes were willing to use the sword to defend the uninhibited proclamation of the Gospel in their lands. Charles was facing down a conflict that would result in more than a century of devastating wars that would eventually erode and lead to the dissolution of the Empire.

Charles attempted to resolve the religious differences in his territories, but it was not until the 1555 Peace of Augsburg that this goal became a temporary reality. It was decided that the individual territories could determine their religion. This was negotiated by Charles' brother, Ferdinand. Charles abdicated his throne in 1556 and Ferdinand became the next emperor. Charles spent the last two years of his life near a monastery in Yuste, Spain.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
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