Compare and contrast the Lutheran Reformation and the Catholic Reformation of the sixteenth century regarding the reform of both religious doctrines and religious practices. (1998, #6)

Introduction:

The Lutheran Reformation and the Catholic Reformation of the sixteenth century only shared one similarity in that both Reformations attempted to affirm their beliefs while defining the Church’s authority. However, each Reformation possessed far more differences in Church doctrine, including the ideas about transubstantiation, purgatory, and salvation. They also heavily contrasted in their church practices, including the sacraments. Each Reformation was done for different reasons, the Catholics only desired to counteract the other Reformations, whereas the Lutheran Reformation was intended to simply reform secular Catholic ideals. The Catholic Reformation only reformed their church practices while the Lutheran Reformation reformed both church doctrine and church practices. Although they bore many differences and also shared one similarity, each Reformation was crucial for the development of the modern religions we know today.

I Causes of the Reformation

A. Corruption of the Roman Catholic Church during the Renaissance
   1. Sale of church offices, nepotism, and the sale of indulgences
   2. Loss of clergy’s morality

B. Effects of Renaissance humanism
   1. Humanist ideals heavily questioned the Church
   2. The Church lost the spirit of Jesus’ message and had lost touch with the mass of believers as prosperity conquered the virtue of poverty
   3. Humanist glorification of humanity contradicted the Church's emphasis on salvation

C. The loss of prestige of the papacy
   1. The Babylonian Captivity of the Church in the 14th century when popes, which had been obedient to the French king, moved to Avignon, leading to a loss of prestige in the rest of Christendom
   2. The Great Schism beginning in 1378, when French and anti-French cardinals elected one pope in Rome and another in Avignon, which lasted forty years
   3. Distrust of the Church was increased with the moral decline of the Renaissance popes
4. Papal involvement in secular politics worsened distrust of Church

D. Influence of religious reformers
   1. Insiders, such as Wycliffe and Huss, criticized the Church
   2. They stressed personal communion with God
   3. The importance of the sacraments was diminished
   4. The influence of the clergy was weakened

E. Resentment of secular rulers over the power of the popes and clergy
   1. Monarchs of growing nation-states resisted papal supremacy over national churches
   2. Resentment existed over vast landholding of the Church within national boundaries

F. Invention of the printing press
   1. Allows dissenters to spread their ideas throughout Europe
   2. The Bible is available to the common people

II The Lutheran Reformation

A. Martin Luther
   1. Martin Luther was German and lived from 1483-1546
   2. He joined the order of Augustine friars to find assurance of a type of bridge between the goodness of God and the evil of man and to find peace of mind
   3. His ideals regarding reforming the Church, especially indulgences, and the popularity gained by the ninety-five theses paved the way for the birth of Lutheranism
   4. Luther’s main idea to reform was the sale of indulgences, which had been made popular in the Roman Catholic Church prior to the Great Schism
   5. John Tetzel had been a primary supporter of the sale of indulgences

B. Ninety-Five Theses
   1. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted the ninety-five theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg
   2. The main objective of the ninety-five theses was to abolish the sale of indulgences with the assistance of local scholars
   3. The ideals of repentance and good works are illustrated heavily throughout the theses
   4. Although not Luther’s intent, the theses are looked at as an attack on the papacy
   5. In result of the uproar over the theses, Luther became well-known

C. The Birth of Lutheranism
   1. Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther after he had burned the papal bull and after the Eck debate
   2. In 1521, at the Diet of Worms, Luther had met with Charles V and stated his loyalties to God’s authority alone
   3. Soon after, Charles V issued the Edict of Worms banning Luther
   4. During this time, Luther translated the Bible into German
5. Now that Luther had no ties with the Roman Catholic Church, he began his own Church

D. Reformed Ideals of Lutheranism

1. Luther and his Church were social conservatives, and the Church was obedient to the authority of German princes
2. Baptism and communion were the only two remaining sacraments out of the original seven of the Catholics
3. Transubstantiation, the belief that during the consecration in the Catholic mass that the bread and wine turned into the Body and Blood of Christ, was rejected
4. Lutherans believed in Consubstantiation, the belief that Jesus is present in spirit during the Eucharist
5. Monasticism was not present in the Lutheran religion
6. The clergy were not required to take a vow of celibacy
7. Justification by salvation alone
   a. The cornerstone of Lutheran beliefs
   b. States that the Catholic belief of salvation by faith and good works is false
   c. Undermines the authority of Pope and clergy because all that was need to be saved is faith by the Bible and God’s authority

III Catholic Reformation

A. Summary of the Catholic Reformation

1. The Catholic Reformation, known as the Counter-Reformation, was the Catholic Church’s way to counteract the Protestant and Lutheran Reformations
2. Their attempts to express the validity of their Church doctrine and Church authority heavily appealed to intellects
3. The Council of Trent was formed to reform and systemize Church doctrine
4. Baroque art demonstrated the continued vitality of the Church and contrasted the sparse artwork seen in Protestant countries

B. Ignatius of Loyola and the Jesuits

1. Ignatius of Loyola organized the Jesuits in the 1530s
2. The Jesuits were the most influential in the success of the Counter-Reformation
3. The Jesuits thought Protestants had only been able to distinguish themselves by their lack of obedience towards the Catholic Church
4. The exercises of Ignatius were meant to instruct devout Catholics to deny themselves and to obey without question to the Church authority and their spiritual guidance
5. Having been relatively successful, the Jesuits were able to bring back many Protestants to the Catholic faith, primarily in Bavaria, Austria, and Rhine

C. Reformed Ideals After the Council of Trent (1545-1563)
1. Salvation is by both good works and faith
2. The validity of transubstantiation and the seven sacraments were reaffirmed
3. The Bible, the traditions of the Church, the writings of the Church fathers, and the Pope were the authorities of the Church
4. Monasticism and the celibacy of the clergy were reaffirmed
5. Benefices were no longer seen throughout the Catholic Church
6. The bishops' power over the clergy increased and seminaries were created for training priests
7. There were no more indulgences in the Church
8. Although even today purgatory is still part of the Church doctrine, Catholics did not need to overcome it financially

IV Important People of the Catholic and Lutheran Reformations

A. Important People of the Catholic Reformation
1. Charles Borromeo (1538-1584)
   a. Charles established the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine for instructing children
   b. This would lead to the Sunday school movement
2. Francis Xavier (1506-1552)
   a. Francis was one of the original Jesuits and one of the greatest missionaries of all time
3. Philip Neri (1515-1595)
   a. Philip founded the Congregation of the Oratory
   b. His congregation of priests at the church in San Girolamo led people to God by prayer, preaching, and studying sacraments
4. Theresa of Alva (1515-1582) and John of the Cross (1549-1599)
   a. Theresa founded 17 convents an 14 monasteries with the help of John of the Cross
   b. They were both great organizers and administrators, and their writings were widely read and influential
5. Southern Germany
   a. Even today, Southern Germany remains primarily Catholic

B. Important People of the Lutheran Reformation
1. Martin Luther (1483-1546)
   a. Luther was a former Catholic monastery, but because of his hatred towards the sale of indulgences, he found a need for reform
   b. He is famous for his ninety-five theses
   c. He is the founder of the Lutheran religion
2. Caspar Cruciger (1504-1548)
   a. Caspar helped Luther translate the Bible into German
   b. He helped prepare Luther's work for printing
3. Georg Spalatin (1484-1545)
   a. Georg was one of Luther's most significant allies in Wittenberg
b. Although a Catholic, he influenced the Catholic Elector to become civil towards Luther

4. Northern Germany
   a. Even today, Northern Germany is primarily Lutheran and/or Protestant

Conclusion:

The Lutheran Reformation and the Catholic Reformation of the sixteenth century were similar only in the sense that both affirmed their separate beliefs. Church doctrine differed severely in subject matters such as transubstantiation, purgatory, and salvation. The practice of sacraments also varied in each church. The Catholics only intended to counteract the other Reformations while Luther planned to reform the secular ideals of the Catholic Church. The Catholic Reformation only reformed their church practices, whereas the Lutheran Reformation reformed both church doctrine and church practices. By the Catholic Reformation and Lutheran Reformation of the sixteenth century, the rise of modern religions could be made possible.

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