

1 **Anabaptism Begins**

2 **Andreas Karlstadt**

- Having once been Luther's university teacher, Karlstadt was influenced by Luther to join the reform movement.
- By the early 1520s, Karlstadt was pushing for a more complete reform than Luther was willing to make.
 - Karlstadt advocated abolishing all unbiblical traditions, while Luther favored abolishing only those spoken directly against in the Bible, and then only slowly.
 - To Luther's emphasis on justification by faith, Karlstadt added an emphasis on the changed life of the believer.
 - To Luther's concept of *sola Scriptura*, Karlstadt added that the Holy Spirit makes possible the proper understanding of the Bible.

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- Karlstadt had a higher view of the ordinary Christian than Luther did.
 - Luther taught the "priesthood of all believers," that everyone has direct access to salvation by faith without needing a priest to bring salvation from God to them.
 - However, Luther came to distrust ordinary Christians' ability to correctly interpret Scripture.
 - Karlstadt stressed the absolute equality of all believers.
- While Luther continued to practice infant baptism, Karlstadt argued in favor of adult baptism.

4 **Thomas Müntzer**

- Müntzer was an early associate of Luther, but soon went in his own direction.
 - Müntzer placed great stress on the work of the Spirit, even more than Karlstadt did.
 - Müntzer emphasized the contrast of believers with unbelievers.
 - Müntzer said that suffering accompanies genuine faith.

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- Müntzer was preoccupied with the End Times, and came to see a key role for himself in them.
 - As peasants began to revolt in the mid-1520s, Müntzer decided that this was a fulfillment of biblical prophesy.
 - He became a leader of the rebellion, determined to visit God's judgment on the ungodly.
 - After the peasants were defeated, Müntzer was captured and executed in 1525.

6 **Review: Zwingli and the Zurich City Council**

- Zwingli proceeded with reform as the city council allowed.
- In 1523, Zwingli advocated for the replacement of the Mass with the celebration of the Lord's Supper as a memorial.
 - The city council decided that it was not ready for such a radical move.

- Zwingli submitted to the council's decision.
- Many of Zwingli's followers were disillusioned by what they considered unfaithfulness to the Bible.

7 **Controversy in Zurich**

- Led by Conrad Grebel and Felix Manz, some of Zwingli's followers began to advocate the abandonment of infant baptism.
- These people had been deeply disappointed by Zwingli's submission to the Zurich city council on the issue of the Mass.

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- As they studied the Bible together, they concluded that it teaches the baptism of adults, not infants.
 - Zwingli responded that infant baptism is neither commanded nor forbidden by the New Testament, but that it is like circumcision, a sign of inclusion among God's people.
 - Grebel, Manz, and their friends continued to disagree, saying that true baptism follows faith and repentance, which infants are not capable of.
- Infant baptisms ceased at two village churches near Zurich under the leadership of Wilhelm Reublin and Johannes Brötli, and some in Zurich, including Grebel, had children born to them but did not have them baptized.

9 **In January of 1525, the first adult baptisms of the Reformation took place.**

- That month, the Zurich city council ordered Grebel, Manz, and their friends to cease their private Bible studies; decreed that all infants must be baptized; and exiled some including Reublin and Brötli.
- Soon afterward, at a meeting in Manz's mother's home in Zurich, George Blaurock asked Grebel to baptize him, and then baptized the others present.

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- They came to be called Anabaptists, or "re-baptizers," by their opponents.
 - They themselves rejected the name as inaccurate, saying that their first "baptism," received as infants, was not really a baptism at all.
 - Together with Karlstadt, Müntzer, and others who wanted to push the Reformation farther than Luther and Zwingli were willing to, the Anabaptists are known as the "radical reformers."