



THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH

CHURCH UNIVERSALITY

- Justification of the Church was based on its view of human nature:
 - People are inherently sinful but possess free will, enabling them to choose good or evil
 - To make the proper decision, they need the assistance of God's grace communicated through the sacraments.
 - As the Church was the sole agency for dispensing the sacraments, the Church was also necessary for human salvation



THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Penance
- Holy Eucharist (communion)
- Matrimony
- Holy Orders
- Anointing of the Sick



SALVATION

- In addition to the sacraments, salvation also required:
 - Faith in God
 - Good works performed on earth
- The Church also believed in the existence of the Holy Trinity, the divinity of Jesus Christ, transubstantiation and the Church as an established institution under the Pope (Bishop of Rome).
- The sources of authority for the Church and its teachings were Bible and tradition.



THE CHURCH

- Aside from heresies, the Church was universal in western and central Europe for all those who professed to be Christians.
- It was supported by taxes and governments.
- It might punish anyone who attacked the established religion.
- It had its own laws and courts
- Monarchs risked excommunication and potential loss of their subjects



RELIGIOUS ORDERS

- Political power came from the ownership of much land and influence over the people.
 - Pope and the Papal states in Italy
- Monasteries – Monks
 - Strict discipline
 - Vows of chastity
 - Poverty
- Nuns



PROBLEMS WITHIN THE CHURCH

- Continued corruption within the Church was met by several councils which called for reform, but little was accomplished to remove abuses:
 - Immorality of some clergy
 - Economic abuses



PROBLEMS WITHIN THE CHURCH

- Simony
 - Buying and selling of sacred Christian objects
- Pluralism
 - The holding of more than one Church position
- Indulgences
 - “buying your salvation”

