Martin Luther

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Moral Courage-Martin Luther

MARTIN LUTHER

THEOLOGIST | 1483–1546

Martin Luther was a German monk who changed Christianity when he began the Protestant Reformation in 16th-century Europe. In May 1522, he organized a new church, Lutheranism.

QUICK FACTS

Studied to be a lawyer

95 Theses

Married former nun

Excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church

Now 65 million Lutherans worldwide

"You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say."

BIOGRAPHY

Photo: Stock Montage/Getty Images

- *Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Saxony, located in modern-day Germany.*
- *1st Moral Courage- becoming a monk*
  - *The decision to become a monk was difficult and greatly disappointed his father, but Luther felt he must keep a promise.*
  - *During his time as a monk, Luther was able to be a delegate of the monk community to a Catholic church conference in Rome. He was discouraged by the corruption he witnessed there among the Catholic priests.*
- *2nd Moral Courage- 95 Theses*
  - *Most famous achievements of Luther.*
  - *Committed to the idea that salvation could be reached through faith and grace only*
  - *Luther criticized the corrupt practice of selling indulgences.*
- *3rd Moral Courage- Defending his own believing-*
  - *In 1518, Luther was called to defend his writings. A debate lasted three days and it came to no agreement. Church committee defended the church's use of indulgences as reasonable, but Luther refused to recant his own writing.*
  - *Around the same time, the pope condemned Luther's writings as heretical and put Luther on Excommunication.*
  - *With the support from his friends to help him hide, Luther translated the New Testament into the German language, to give ordinary people the opportunity to read God's word. This took him ten years to complete.*