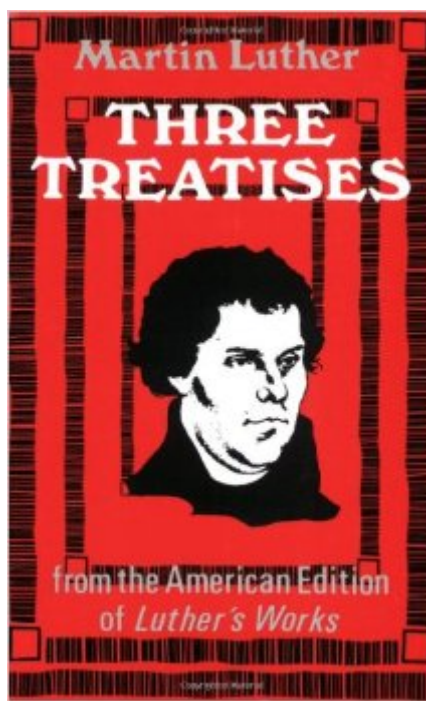


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# Three Treatises



## Synopsis

Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses on the church door at Wittenberg in 1517. In the three years that followed, Luther clarified and defended his position in numerous writings. Chief among these are the three treatises written in 1520. In these writings Luther tried to frame his ideas in terms that would be comprehensible not only to the clergy but to people from a wide range of backgrounds. *To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation* is an attack on the corruption of the church and the abuses of its authority, bringing to light many of the underlying reasons for the Reformation. The second treatise, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, contains Luther's sharp criticism of the sacramental system of the Catholic church. *The Freedom of a Christian* gives a concise presentation of Luther's position on the doctrine of justification by faith. The translations of these treatises are all taken from the American edition of *Luther's Works*. This new edition of *Three Treatises* will continue to be a popular resource for individual study, church school classes, and college and seminary courses.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Yes, Luther had his faults; in all honesty they are well documented and cannot be denied. But if we proceed in this honest assessment, we must admit that if only a small fraction of his case against the Roman papacy were true, it would be a very damning case indeed, enough to forever impeach Rome's claim as the one "true" church and the pope's claim to be Christ's 'stand-in', the 'Vicar of Christ'. After those aspects of Luther's case that can be assailed as being inaccurate are whittled

off, what remains is the lion's share of his expositions, a well-argued prosecution of the papal office and its corruption of the western church. The most important of Luther's essays stand with the greatest of Christian commentaries and expositions. Yes, there are many other voices of Christian (Eastern, Protestant, and Roman) consequence, down to our present day, but in terms of historical impact, few stand with Luther. This volume from Fortress Press, includes English translations of three seminal essays produced in 1520: To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation, The Babylonian Captivity of the Church, and, The Freedom of a Christian. They represent the heart of Luther's case against the Roman papacy, and the heart of the Reformation. His case cites many specific points, is filled with both reverence for God and scripture, and contempt for the self-aggrandizement, politicking, callous money-grubbing, and arrogance of the papal office holders and papist "flatterers": "If the pope in Rome can grant dispensations and scandalously sell them for money, then every priest may give the same dispensations without price and for the salvation of souls.

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