

## **The Pope and the Emperor Respond to Luther**

### **Student Page**

#### Introduction:

In 1517, when Luther nailed his *95 Theses* to the church door in Wittenberg, Pope Leo X headed the Catholic Church. Two years later, Charles V of Spain was elected Holy Roman Emperor. In this lesson, you will study the response of the Pope and the Emperor to Luther's *Theses*. As you read the documents, think about reasons why they might have responded as intensely as they did.

All Web links for this lesson can be found at:

<http://www.socialstudies.com/worldlinks.html>.

#### Directions:

#### **Condemning the Errors of Martin Luther**

<http://www.papalencyclicals.net/Leo10/110exdom.htm>

(alternate site) <http://www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/L10EXDOM.HTM>

You do not have to read this entire document; instead, the following questions will direct you to specific paragraphs:

1. Read the first paragraph. To whom was the pope speaking? What were the foxes and wild boar doing? To whom was the pope actually referring?
2. Read the paragraph that begins, "Give heed to the cause..." How did the Pope describe the "lying teachers"?
3. Read the paragraph that begins, "These errors have..." Where did the errors to which the Pope refers originate?

4. Study “Errors 18–22.” Summarize three errors the Pope found in Luther’s teachings.
5. Read Error 25. If the Pope believed this teaching was incorrect, what did he think was correct?
6. Read the paragraph that begins, “Therefore we, in this above enumeration...” What did the Pope say about these errors?
7. Read the paragraph that begins, “Moreover, because the preceding errors...” What did the Pope announce concerning the books and writings of Martin Luther?
8. Scroll down to the paragraph that begins, “Therefore we can...” How did the Pope describe Luther in this paragraph?
9. Read the final statement (“We enjoin...”) What else did the Pope state about Luther?

**The Imperial Edict of Worms**

<http://www.cla.sc.edu/hist/faculty/edwardsk/hist310/reader/worms.html>

This document summarizes Emperor Charles V’s legal decision regarding Martin Luther. Read the document, then answer the following questions:

10. Summarize three of the “crimes” of which Luther was accused.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Scroll down to the paragraph that begins, “And now, particularly on account...” Who was assembled in Worms?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Scroll down to the paragraph that begins, “We strictly order that...” Read this paragraph and continue to the end of the text. What were three of the orders issued by Emperor Charles V?

**Coronation Oath**

[http://pirate.shu.edu/~wisterro/cdi/charles\\_v\\_coronation.htm](http://pirate.shu.edu/~wisterro/cdi/charles_v_coronation.htm)

Read the oath Charles V swore when he was crowned Holy Roman Emperor.

13. Based on the text of the Emperor’s oath, why do you think he responded to Luther in the way that he did? Explain your reasoning.

