

The Protestant Reformation Revolutionized Art

Martin Luther's Reformation ended a period of dominance and unity in Europe under the Roman Catholic Church. This unity lasted for more than 1,000 years. The Protestant reformers influenced artists who became inspired by the new ideas of faith, forgiveness, a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and the powerful stories in the *Holy Bible*.



The Crucifixion (Titian, 1558)

Titian uses the dark sky to illustrate that God made Jesus as a man to die on the cross. Mary, Jesus' mother stares at the ground. St. John in on the right with open arms looking directly at the cross. San Domenico kneels at the foot of the cross embracing it. The painting is in the Church of San Domenico in Milan.

"It was the third hour when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS." (Mark 15:25,26)

Titian only paints Jesus Christ. The two thieves, soldiers, remnants of clothing are not included. Titian's religious art works express a common bond between God (Jesus Christ) and man (us). This is the bond of love, expressed in contrasting colors and the use of light. Clearly, this painting illustrates the gospel of forgiveness, the price of our redemption, and the unconditional love of God for each of us. Consider this a provocative visual statement that was done during the Council of Trent when the Roman Catholic church upheld its teachings on works and indulgences.