

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

The term “Reform” directly gives the impression that something, namely Western European Christianity, is being renewed. The fact shows that the term “reform” is generally accepted as an appropriate designation for this movement, because this movement is associated with the recognition of the need for a thorough examination of institutions, practices and understandings of the Western church. The term really helps to show that there are social and intellectual dimensions of the movement.¹ After the emergence of a Renaissance that made civilization in science, but has not been able to overcome the pain of society from the confines of the church, there emerged a movement that fiercely opposed the deviant church dogmas, namely the reform movement of the church.

The Reformation began as people tried to reform the Catholic Church, but politics got in the way. Strong kings and princes were competing with each other. New Protestant churches denied the power of the pope and tried to approach God in new, more direct ways. Northern European rulers protected their Protestant leaders. In response to Protestantism, the Catholic Church began a Reformation of its own.² The actions of the reformers, in reforming the church were blocked by politics at that time. The competition between the king and the prince was there because they wanted to help and support the reformers to complete their mission. Denial of the Pope’s strength and more trust in the Bible because he wants to be closer to God, it is done by the Protestant Churches.

Dissatisfaction with the Catholic Church grew in the 15th century and reached its peak in 1517 when Martin Luther (1483-1546), a monk from

1 Alister E. McGrath, *Sejarah Pemikiran Reformasi*, (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 8th edition, 2016) p. 2.

2 Martin Luther, *Reformation and Enlightenment 1500-1800* (United States: McDougal Littell, 2002) p. 11.

the Society of Augustine who worked in Wittenburg, Germany, installed 95 “theses” at the door of the palace church in the city that. He criticized the Catholic Church for selling indulgences to increase funds to be used to rebuild St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome³. Luther was excommunicated in 1521. Luther rejected many religious doctrines and practices which did not prove to have a biblical basis. The reforms were ignited in the 16th century by Martin Luther in Germany and by John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli elsewhere in Europe.⁴

The same does not apply to the latter split, a more traumatic separation in Christianity called the Protestant Reformation. Most Protestants view the Reformation as a movement devoted to moral reform in Christianity.⁵ One of the influences of the emergence of the reformation of church movement was the division between churches in the West. Like the Protestant Church and Catholic Church. For some Protestants, the aim of the reform movement is aimed at the morale of society.

The term “Protestant” comes from the results of the Second General Trial in Speyer (February 1529) which decided to end tolerance of Lutheranism in Germany. In April of that year, six German princes and fourteen cities protested. They maintain the freedom of conscience and the rights of religious minorities. The term “Protestant” comes from the protest action.⁶ Apparently the term Protestant was taken from the protest by Christians who want to uphold the rights of religion and conscience, because they feel they never get these things and always feel confined to church dogmas.

Martin Luther began to inch his way toward his own distinctive understanding of how sinners are able to enter into the presence of a righteous

3 What is meant here is to give a guarantee to someone to be able to go straight to heaven after death when making a contribution to the Church.

4 Michael Keene, *Kristianitas*, (Yogyakarta: Kanisius, 2006), p. 68.

5 Robert C. Solomon & Kathleen M. Higgins, *Sejarah Filsafat*, Translated from *A Short History of Philosophy*, (Yogyakarta: Bentang Budaya, 2nd edition, June 2003) p. 281.

6 Alister E. McGrath, *Sejarah Pemikiran Reformasi*,....., p. 6.

God, classically expressed in the doctrine of justification by faith. While the relationship between the emergence of Luther's theological distinctives and the historical origins of the Reformation as a whole is more complex.⁷ From the many thoughts of Martin Luther about reformation of church, he had a unique understanding of the problem of sin and its acceptance into the presence of God.

Luther wrote to the archbishop of Mainz in 1517. The archbishop was selling indulgences to raise money for the new cathedral. Luther wrote in his letter that people were getting the wrong impression. They were buying indulgences to pay for their sins and thought this would make sure they went to heaven after they died. Some even thought they did not need to be sorry for their sins and that no sins was too great. Luther said no priest or bishop could guarantee that a person would be saved. Only Christ could do that. He said, it was much better for people to do good works than to buy indulgences. In the same year, Luther made lists of all the things that were bothering him about the indulgences and called it the 95 theses. He nailed this list to the door of the Wittenberg Church.⁸

The way Martin Luther dealt with the problem of the sins of Christians by writing a warning letter to the archbishop not to sell indulgences to pay for the sins of Christians. This received special attention from Luther because Christians get the wrong impression and assume that if they have bought indulgences, then the person will go to heaven. From this statement, Martin Luther's idea emerged to put up 95 theses of criticism for the teachings of the church which he thought were devoted. After the success of Martin Luther in reforming the church. A new case arises, namely church of denominations created after the reformation of the Catholic church.

Denomination is potentially one of God's good gifts to the church. Denomination is a form in which Christians can live out varying

⁷ Alister E. McGrath, *Luther's Theology of the Cross* (United Kingdom: Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 1985) p.17.

⁸ Martin Luther, *Reformation and Enlightenment 1500-1800*,....., p. 32-33.

understandings of faith in Jesus Christ and of what that faith requires in terms of right belief and right practice. Denomination provides a form in which new insights into the faith, or new applications of old insights to changing contexts and circumstances, can be tested by being lived out.⁹ This opinion makes the motivation for the writer to discuss more deeply about the church denominations that occurred after the reforms carried out by Martin Luther. Because some Christians feel anxious about the church denominations around them which will only make them divide and not unite until now. And that is the reason, the writer wants to discuss these issues more deeply.

Martin Luther's reformation of church always refers to the kindness of the Christian people who want to be saved from the deviant teachings of the church. Here the writer wants to reveal about these teachings, one of which is the sale of indulgences. The main basis of the reform movement is the power and highest position by the Scriptures that exceeds all forms of world power.¹⁰ Because their forms of belief differed on the way in which the Scriptures were delivered, the present church denomination occurred which occurred after the reform movement. Therefore the writer will discuss the close relationship between Martin Luther's reformation of church and denominations of church today.

B. Problem of Study

Based on the explanation above, the writer tries to find out the problem which can be formulated in the question below:

1. What is Martin Luther's concept on reformation of church?
2. What is the impact of Martin Luther's reformation of church in denominations of Church today?

⁹ Paul M. Collins and Barry Ensign-George, *Denomination: Assessing an Ecclesiological Category*, (London: T&T Clark International, 2011), p. 14.

¹⁰ Michael Keene, *Kristianitas*,....., p. 68.

C. Purpose of Study

The purpose of the discussion is as follows:

1. To find out Martin Luther's concept on reformation of church.
2. To find out the impact of Martin Luther's reformation of church in denominations of Church today.

D. Importance of Study

This research is asked to make valuable contributions, especially for the following purposes:

1. Scientific Importance:
 - a. To describe Martin Luther's concept on reformation of church.
 - b. To give the contribution concerning of Martin Luther's reformation of church in denominations of Church today.
2. Social Importance:
 - a. To answer the problem that talks about the denominations of the Church today on Martin Luther's reformation of church.
 - b. To enrich the studies in Martin Luther's concept on reformation of church.

E. Literature Review

Actually, research on Martin Luther's reformation of church has been written in many scientific papers, but the writer has not found any specific research about the concept and impact of Martin Luther's Church reform, such as:

First, thesis on *Peranan Martin Luther dalam reformasi gereja pada abad ke-16*, written by Elisabeth Ramadi Martine¹¹. This thesis told about the state of Martin Luther and the Catholic Church in the 16th century. Used to describe and analyze the differences of opinion between Martin Luther and the Catholic Church about reform. The lack less of this thesis has not

¹¹ Elisabeth Ramadi Martine, *Peranan Martin Luther dalam reformasi gereja pada abad ke-16*, Minithesis: Submitted to Fulfill Partial Requirements for License Level (S1) of Sanata Dharma University, (Yogyakarta, 2008).

explained about the denominations of the Church today on Martin Luther's reformation of church.

Second, thesis on *Martin Luther dan Reformasi Gereja di Jerman (1517-1546)*, written by Marcelina Rapalangi¹². This thesis told about the Europe's condition before church reform and Martin Luther's life as a reformatory of the church. The lack less of this thesis has not explained about the denominations of the Church today on Martin Luther's reformation of church.

Third, journal written by Mariani Febriana Lere Dawa, *Teologia Salib Martin Luther Dan Implikasinya Dalam Dunia Masa Kini*, Jurnal Theologia Aletheia (JTA) Vol. 12 No. 21, September 2010. This journal told about Martin Luther's theology of the cross and catholic church. The lack less of this thesis has not explained about the denominations of the Church today on Martin Luther's reformation of church.

Given all the above literature, writer clearly have not found any specific research that deals with the concept of Martin Luther's reformation of church, because that is all about Martin Luther's life, reformation, general Church especially Catholic. Therefore, the writer tries to make a research that discuss the problems above with the other side that is more focused on Martin Luther's concept on reformation of church and the denominations of the Church today on Martin Luther's reformation of church.

F. Theoretical Framework

The Theoretical Framework is an approach used to look at a problem and conclude a study, made from different fields of knowledge.¹³ For the sake of achieving perfection in the discussion of this thesis, the writers need to assemble the theoretical framework to facilitate it in positioning

¹² Marcelina Rapalangi, *Martin Luther dan Reformasi Gereja di Jerman (1517-1546)*. A Thesis: Submit Partial Requirements for Licensing Degree from UNM (Universitas Negeri Makassar) Institutional Repository.

¹³ Nasrullah ZM, *Pedomen Penulisan Skripsi, first edition*, Biro Penelitian dan kajian Ilmiah Institute Studi Islam Darussalam, (Gontor: Trimurti Press, 2005), p. 20

themselves.

The reforms carried out Martin Luther are rooted in an academic context, the Reformed church is rooted in a series of efforts to renew the moral and the worship of the church (without attaching importance to its teachings) to be more in line with the pattern found in the Bible.¹⁴ The root of the reformation that Martin Luther did was an attempt to renew the moral and the worship of the church which always conformed to the Bible.

The Reformation changed the Medieval society living with single diversity be compound holds community. This process of change is sustained by a new authority which is not at all new to the new authority of the Church, i.e. the Scriptures. The principle of Sola Scriptura “Book” becomes a powerful theological basis for its ultimate weapon is at once a political and church reformer as like as Martin Luther.¹⁵ One of the influences of the Reformation was the emergence of various Christian communities and sects. Besides that, the emergence of theology that only returned to the Bible also became the basis of theology in the church reformation conducted by Martin Luther.

The reformation began when Martin Luther (1483-1546), an Augustinian monk, nailed ninety-five “propositions” at the door of the church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. The movement began a series of fights which increasingly spread between Luther and the priestly authorities. One of Luther’s closest philosophical concerns is the eternal problem of Western tradition, the problem of sin, and redemption.¹⁶ Factor of the emergence of the Reformation, when Martin Luther protested by nailing 95 propositions or propositions at the door of the church in Germany.

14 Alister E. McGrath, *Sejarah Pemikiran Reformasi*,....., p. 9.

15 J. R. Hutauruk, *Disini Aku Berdiri (Martin Luther) Percikan Pemikiran dan Refleksi 500 Tahun Reformasi* (Jakarta: Yayasan Komunikasi Bina Kasih, 2017) p. 1-2.

16 Robert C. Solomon & Kathleen M. Higgins, *Sejarah Filsafat*, Translated from *A Short History of Philosophy*, (Yogyakarta: Bentang Budaya, 2nd print, June 2003, p. 281).

Then how about Martin Luther's concept on reformation of church, that many impacts for the reformation. The most visible influence today is the church denomination, which is the diversity of the church which makes some Christians restless with differences in teachings and the delivery of their Scriptures. Therefore the writers want to clarify the answers of Martin Luther's reformation of church about denominations in Church affect Christians today.

To clarify that's the result of opinions, the writer in this discussion uses one approach. The Phenomenological Approach is phenomenology seeks to describe experience as it presents itself to subjective consciousness. It is thus distinct from and conceptually prior to a subject's interpretations of that experience, though experiences and interpretations inevitably collide.¹⁷

The writer use of this approach to help more understanding of church reform especially. Then, explaining the concept of Martin Luther's church reform with the impact of Martin Luther's concept on reformation of church on the denominations of Church today.

G. Methodology Of Study

1. The Technique Of Data Collection

The type of research in writing thesis is library research (Library Research), is research by collecting data as well as researching references related to the studied research. The writer collect the data using the technique of documentary. It means that data is a mixed data, most of the books, scipts, and other written materials.

The source of data in this study is classified into primary sources and the secondary ones.

¹⁷ Michael Stausberg and Steven Engler, *The Routledge Handbook of Research Methods in The Study of Religion*, (USA and Canada: Simultaneously published, 2011), p. 356.

a. The Primary Sources

1. Reformation and Enlightenment 1500-1800, Martin Luther, United States: McDougal Littell, 2002. This book is one collection of Martin Luther's book that explain the beginning of the reform until the age of enlightenment where science could develop rapidly.

2. Works of Martin Luther Vol. 1, Martin Luther, USA: AGES Software, 1997. This book is regarded about the work of Martin Luther is proof that the teachings he delivered have had results until now

3. Martin Luther: The Great Reformer, Edwin Booth, Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 1999. This book is regarded about the struggle of Martin Luther as one of the church reformers who succeeded in reforming the church.

4. The Complete Guide To Christian Denominations, Ron Rhodes, Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 2005. This book is regarded about church denominations that occur in the midst of Christian communities.

5. Martin Luther Lessons From His Life And Labor, John Piper, Minnesota: Desiring God Foundation, 2012. This book is regarded essentially wholesome and necessary for a Christian to know, whether or not the will does any thing in those things which pertain unto Salvation.

b. The Secondary Sources

A secondary sources are those works written by scholars of prominent persons related to this research including encyclopedias, books, journals, articles, and other writings that help the researcher to understanding the main of the problem.

2. Method And Data Of Analysis

The research method which applied by the writer is descriptive and analytic method. Descriptive method is a method use to search for elements, attributes, and characteristics of phenomenon.¹⁸ This description method used to describe by submitting appropriate phenomenon of Martin Luther's concept on reformation of church.

Where as the analysis method that is the process of searching and compiling systematically the data of combining the power of scientific methods obtained by using formal processes to solve the problems¹⁹ it will be used to discuss and analyze data in this research. By analyzing Martin Luther's concept on reformation of church and its impact today, then the writer would like to analyze this problem and conclude the values. First, the writer described and exposed the data of the research. Then the writer interprets the mentioned description, so the writer analyzed the presence of Martin Luther's concept on reformation of church.

H. System of Study

To describe and explain as clear as possible, the writer will divide this study into four chapters, as follow:

Chapter One: Introduction. This chapter consists of background study, purpose of the study, importance of study, method of study, and some liteatures that work through this study, theoretical framework, methodology of research applied, and system of study.

Chapter Two: Martin Luther's Biography, Church Reformation And Denominations Of Church. This chapter has four parts that tried to decrcribe widely about Martin Luther's biography, Church reformation and denominations of Church in first part it is containing of the Martin Luther explanation which Martin Luther's biography include Martin Luther's date

¹⁸ Suryana, *Metodologi Penelitian Model Praktis Penelitian Kuantitatif dan Kualitatif Buku Ajar Perkuliahan*, (Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, 2010), p. 20.

¹⁹ Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Kualitatif*, (Bandung: Penerbit Alfabeta, 2013), p. 244.

of life, education of Martin Luther, environment of Martin Luther, works of Martin Luther, and the role of Martin Luther. While the second part mentions about Church reformation include definition of church, history of church reformation, the teachings of church reformation, the meaning of reformation, and foundation of reformation. The third part mention about denominations of church, include definition of denominations and the various of denominations.

Chapter Three: Martin Luther's Concept on Reformation of Church. This chapter is the description about the main contain of this study. It is an analysis of the writer concerning Martin Luther's Concept on Reformation of Church, this chapter containing The Concept of Christian Reformers on Reformation of Church and The Concept of Martin Luther on Reformation of Church, through the sub include of Martin Luther's 95 theses and the doctrine of the sacraments, and the the impact of Martin Luther's Church reform through the sub include of the emergence of denominations in the Church today and the emergence of doctrines, through the sub include Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, and Sola Gratia.

Chapter Four: Closing. This chapter is containing a result of study, recommendation, as the result of this research, so continued by the closing of the writing.

