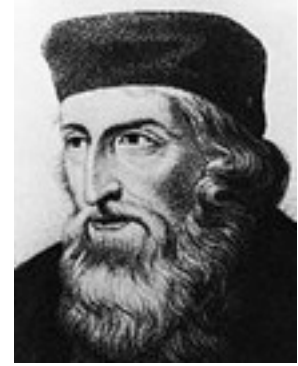


1. The Pope and Christian Kings Play Rock, Scissors, Paper
2. Unam Sanctum (1302) and the New Heretics

"Now, therefore, we declare, say, determine and pronounce that for every human creature it is necessary for salvation to be subject to the authority of the Roman pontiff" *Unam Sanctum*

- The Two Swords



John Wycliffe,  
1324-1385

- The Crusades - win back the Holy Land and unite Christendom
  - The Knight's Templar
  - The Dominicans and Franciscans "The beggars of Christ"
  - Dante, Ockham and the moral and philosophical awkwardness of Papal Authority
3. The Avignon Paapcy
    - French pope coronated in France, too sick to cross the Alps
    - Rome in disarray, weak financially and militarily
    - Pope Urban (an Avignon cleric elected to Rome) excommunicates Pope Clement VII (of Geneva), and vice versa
    - Within a hundred years of Unam Sanctum, the disarray of the papacy, plus academic and theological critique, plus "rebellious" *rex christianissimi* (Christian kings), leaves the Papacy with no universal rule in the political sphere, only a narrow spiritual one
    - The Pope increasingly has to share power with the Council of Cardinals. Sovereignty now belongs to the whole Church (bishops, cardinals, councils)
  4. Wycliffe
    - Born 1324, in Yorkshire
    - Entered Queen's College, Oxford at age 16.
    - Academic and Roman Catholic priest. Most college theology faculty were part of the "mendicant" (beggar) orders:
    - In 1367, defended Edward III's refusal to pay Papal duty to Rome.
    - Made Professor of Divinity at Oxford in 1372
    - Rewarded for loyalty to the King with the Rectory of Lutterworth (his parish until his death)

- Spiritual authority comes to those who possess God's grace (*De Civili Dominio*, 1375-6).

Shortly before his death he wrote to the pope:

*"Again I submit that the Roman pontiff, inasmuch as he is Christ's highest vicar on earth, is among pilgrims most bound to this law of the gospel. For the majority of Christ's disciples are not judged according to worldly greatness, but according to the imitation of Christ in their moral life. Again, from out of the heart of the Lord's law I plainly conclude that Christ was the poorest of men during the time of his pilgrimage and that he eschewed all worldly dominion. This is clear from the faith of the gospel, Matthew 8 and 2 Corinthians 8. From all this I deduce that never should any of the faithful imitate the pope himself nor any of the saints except insofar as he may have imitated the Lord Jesus Christ."*

- We possess God's grace when we receive God's word with faith.
- The vernacular Scriptures is God's gift of the Gospel to his people. (*De Ecclesia*, *De Veritate Sacrae Scripturae*, and *De Potestate Papae* (1377-8))

*"The clergy cry aloud that it is heresy to speak of the Holy Scriptures in English, and so they would condemn the Holy Ghost, who gave tongues to the Apostles of Christ to speak the word of God in all languages under heaven."* Wycliffe

*"This pestilent and wretched John Wycliffe, that son of the old serpent...endeavour[ing] by every means to attack the very faith and sacred doctrine of Holy Church, translated from Latin into English the Gospel that Christ gave to the clergy and doctors of the Church. So that by his means it has become vulgar and more open to laymen and women who can read than it usually is to quite learned clergy of good intelligence. And so the pearl of the Gospel is scattered abroad and trodden underfoot by swine."*  
(*Church Chronicle*, 1395)

After his death, his body was exhumed and burned, deemed a heretic by the Church.