

Jones, Timothy Paul

Christian History Made Easy (Rose Bible Basics)

39. Chapter Eight Discussion and Review Session (1500–1609): When Should Christians Divide?

This is a teacher's guide for a group session reviewing Chapter Eight on the Reformation. Its aim is to reinforce what students read and to help them think through when believers should—and should not—separate from other professing Christians. The centerpiece activity has students write their own 'theses' and nail them to a board, echoing Luther.

Key takeaways

- Division among Christians is never desirable, but the session asks when it becomes necessary.
- The core test: separate only over matters essential to the Christian faith, not over style, personality, or preference.
- Reformers left the established church for different reasons—unbiblical teaching, corruption, or low moral standards.
- Students list reasons to divide, then cross out non-essential ones and circle the uncertain ones, praying for wisdom on each.

- The activity uses Luther's 95 Theses as a model: students nail their 'My Theses' to a board as a commitment.

Passages worth keeping

“Division is never desirable. When is it necessary?”

The guiding question of the whole session.

How it connects

The three assigned passages together mark the boundary line: morality, the gospel, and Christ's identity are worth dividing over; things like music, end-times views, or hurt feelings are not.

Scripture referenced

- **1 Corinthians 5:9–13** -- Divide when a professing Christian defies God's moral commands.
- **Galatians 1:6–9** -- Divide when someone alters the plan of salvation / gospel.
- **1 John 2:18–23** -- Divide when someone denies Jesus as Messiah, God, and man.