

pope was a very bad man but there was supposed to be a better one later.

Those who knew history knew that a century before there had been three popes ~~who had~~ at once and all Europe had risen up and held the general council of Constance to do away with this situation and to establish one pope to reform the church. The institution of the papacy was hardly seriously questioned, except by very few people at this time. It was just in the air, the general recognition. Not of the pope who as one who could ~~sax~~ speak unfallibly on doctrine. Not of the pope as one who was fitted necessarily to be the great leader of the church but as one who had the leading position and one who through his officers and those who were associated with him should give the final word on any difficult problem that would come up. That was almost universally accepted attitude. Luther himself went a long way before he thought of questioning this attitude.

Now the papacy as was noticed being at the top occupied by men who were not interested in prominence of religion at all. Many of them led a most wicked life naturally effected the church all the way down. While in the church there were found people some of them who were real Christians. Yet the general atmosphere was one that was very far from real teaching of Christianity. This is recognized today by all Protestants and Romanists alike that that was the condition at that date. Here is a book published by a Jesuit, the Life of Luther, in six volumes by a Jesuit. Professor of the University of Insbruck authorized translation from the German here published with the authority of Victor General. This book, speaking of the situation early in the time of Luther, speaks very strongly and plainly of the great corruption which had come into the church. The situation is an extremely worldly situation. It says for instance that the archbishop of Gremund was at the same time bishop of Bergundy. The archbishop of Arshnebrook was also bishop of Potterborn. George <sup>19-14</sup> and duke of Bavaria had in his thirteenth year been made cathedral and afterwards became a