Student's Name

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Course

Date

Church Opposition

During the 12th and 13th Centuries came the introduction of the church and its system of worship, and it faced opposition from various origins. The opposition that the church faced was from the outside and within the church organization. During this period, the church had developed tremendously, thus leading to some issues within the church. Among the controversies existing was the leadership of the church. One controversy, for instance, was between the pope and the Roman Emperor. The pope was believed to be the ruler of the Christians, while the Roman Emperor was the supreme ruler of the land. He was in charge of religion and the secular world as well. This brought about opposition from the people and other leaders of the land.

**The criticisms that the church faced**

One of the significant causes of opposition that the church faced was the pope position in Europe. The pope had gained more strength over time, bringing about an uproar in some parts of Europe. The opposition was because the pope had gained more power and threatened the position of the Roman Emperor (Whalen). During this period, the pope and Bishops of Latin emphasized the significance of religious doctrines and the religious laws in Europe, creating many Christians who followed the canonical rules. The position of the Roman emperor was threatened, and this increased the opposition that the church faced.

The opposition of the church was also caused by the fact that the religious leaders of the church had become more secular. The religious leaders had become more secular in that some of them, for instance, the priests, violated the church's laws (Fossier 237-246). This brought an internal opposition of the church from many believers. Internal opposition further worsened the opposition that the church faced in Europe. The church's believers had noticed religious leaders like the priests and bishops engaging in marriages and acts such as simony. Simony refers to bishops engaging in corruption and selling the positions of the church to people with money and power (Salzman 198-200). As a result, the people who got leadership positions had no divine calling to lead but the greed for power. The main reason for the cause of internal opposition was the hypocrisy of the leaders.

**How the Church Reacted to Criticisms in the 12th and 13th Century**

Because of the opposition that the church faced, it reacted in different ways. During the 12th Century and the 13th Century, the church's reputation had been damaged by increased corruption and hypocrisy by the church leaders. To react to the changes, the church began efforts to initiate a renaissance to bring purity in religion. In some European countries, the church began reforming the church leadership, especially the clergy, by ensuring that the church's laws, such as celibacy are maintained (Pranger 1600-1610). The church also tried to stop corruption issues in the church by encouraging purity in the church leadership.

**Thought on how the church emerged from the criticisms**

I think that the church emerged more strengthened from the criticism that it faced. At first, the criticism that the church faced brought about the division in the church. Because of the division caused by the internal and external criticisms, however, the church leadership made steps to reform the church so that issues of corruption and hypocrisy that the church faced could reduce. For instance, the church leadership in Spain ensured that the clergy and including the priests, maintained celibacy (Pranger 1600). Such changes helped in rebuilding the trust and belief in the church.

**Conclusion**

The church has gone through different stages since its formation in the early days. However, with the changes taking place globally, the church has experienced opposition from the church and outside. Among the issues causing division in the church were hypocrisy and corruption by the leaders. Despite the opposition that the church faced, it reacted well to the opposition, with the church leaders initiating religious reforms.

Works Cited

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