

completely wiped out of Europe. Humanly speaking, if the Counter-Reformation had delayed another 50 years getting under way, the Roman Church would have completely disappeared. It was a tremendous force, a force beyond what almost any Protestant could have any realization and therefore it is very, very vital that we know something about it especially as the forces which were so vital in it, are still extremely active today. Yes? (Student question) I said that if the Counter-Reformation had not gotten started till 50 years later, Romanism would have almost certainly completely disappeared from the face of the earth. Protestantism would have had just as good a chance of conquering Spain and Italy as it did England and Scotland. And Poland and France were well up in the race of becoming completely Protestant and would have done so were it not for the Counter-Reformation. Now the instruments of the Counter-Reformation of course were a stiffening up of the Papacy - leaving the Popes - getting men who were willing to take a little time off ~~and~~ from their luxuries, ~~at~~ their enjoyment of art and literature and licentious living, a little time off to give attention to how to cleanse the church and to try to make it a little harder for Protestantism to get a foothold. The Papacy was improved in morality within the next 30 years - it took a while for it to do it. Adrian, the Austere man was Pope for 2 years but he was succeeded by Clement who was an exact picture of Leo X except (5.5). And the next two or three Popes had their illegitimate children. It was the moral life - In fact the next one after him made two of his grandchildren, Italians who were in their teens - so that it took a while before the Papacy changed materially. It had to change or it would have disappeared under of Protestant . But it took a time for it to change and the Popes have never been the great leaders, actually, who were responsible for the Counter-Reformation. Some of them have been