

Compare and contrast the ideas and personalities of the Italian Renaissance (Literary Humanism) with the ideas and personalities of the so-called Northern Renaissance (Christian Humanism)

All things human:

- 1. Art**
- 2. Politics**
- 3. Commercial activities**
- 4. Etc.**
- 5. EVEN worship, prayer and spiritualism were things humans did**

“Christian Humanism”

- 1. Reading the bible and church writings for yourself**
- 2. Your own beliefs in God**
- 3. Understanding physical nature as God’s creation**
- 4. Even man’s spiritualism could be considered a “work of art”**

Early examples:

- a. The Scholastics**
- b. The Mystics: belief and experience could lead the individual soul into a direct communion with God**
- c. All souls were transcended in mysticism by the individual soul**

Erasmus -> Martin Luther

While Erasmus does not criticize the essence of the Catholic Church, he does question and criticize abuses with church practices that seem to interfere with man’s individual relationship with God.

Overall:

- 1. Combination of Greek and Christian philosophy**
- 2. Focus on bible itself and not Church’s interpretation**
- 3. Use of the vernacular**
- 4. Emphasis on the moral and ethical spirit of Christ**
- 5. Christian teaching was more important than the Medieval Church**