

Puritan challenge to Elizabeth's Religious Settlement:

Challenge 1: The Crucifix Crisis



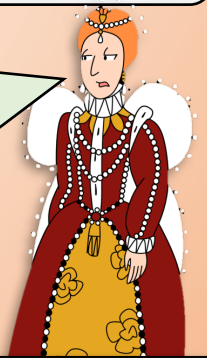
I'm a Catholic and even though I'm not happy with the Queen being a Protestant, her new religion doesn't upset me that much, but we loved our idols, candles & statues in our churches, so we're glad she has kept them in her new churches, so you Puritans can jog on if you think we're losing our crucifix that the queen has allowed, it is central to our faith!



Oh no you don't!! I am very angry that the Queen has shown too much lenience to the Catholics in her new religion, we Puritans demanded a much more plain religion and church, there is no space in the relationship with God for idols, statues and definitely not the crucifix, it is just TOO CATHOLIC!

As you all know, I have tried to create a religion that appeals to the majority, I demand the crucifix remains. If I lose the crucifix I will appear weak as a Queen, as well as upset the Catholics and there are a lot of Catholics, but I am a Protestant, I should please them – Oh this is a dilemma!

This is especially difficult and dangerous as the Pope has just told my loyal subjects, the English Catholics, to boycott my new Church, not sure I am ready for that fight just yet!



In the end, Elizabeth backed down to the Puritans, (partly due to the influence of Cecil & Dudley) and removed the crucifix from her churches, however, she compromised once again by allowing them to stay in the Royal Chapel in every church. She DID NOT want a civil war over religion!

Threat Level: Probably more of a potential threat to Elizabeth by upsetting the Catholics, but it did show some weakness in her by backing down to the Puritans.

Challenge 2: The Vestment controversy

It is bad enough that our Queen has compromised so much already, but we just can't accept these Catholic vestments in our Protestant churches! No way! It just makes the priests appear above the people and better than us! These priests think they can turn bread & wine into the body and blood of Jesus, come in!!! They also think they can forgive sin? ONLY God can forgive sin!

A priest should be plain in dress and behaviour! While I am here, there is no hierarchy in the Bible, so should there be in real life?



Some priests were not following Elizabeth's instructions (Royal injunctions) and wearing the required vestments. This undermined the Queen's authority, which she couldn't allow having such a weak grip on the crown at the start of her reign. Most priests in the end backed down, only 37 were sacked!

I am the Queen, ALL will obey me! The Archbishop of Canterbury will issue a 'Book of advertisements' declaring how my clergy will dress and behave, they will come to London to be shown how to dress. If they refuse they will be sacked – Although this could be dangerous and start a Protestant rising, it is the only choice I have! I am worried about this idea of no hierarchy that these Puritans are talking about!...

