

## BIOGRAPHY OF POPE LEO X



Pope Leo X was born Giovanni di Lorenzo de Medici in Florence. He was the second son of Lorenzo the Magnificent, ruler of the Florentine Republic. Being the second son meant he was destined for religious life. He received his tonsure (cutting of the hair to show humility to God) at age seven. He received the title of cardinal-deacon (a high honor) at age 13 by his relative, Pope Innocent III. Boys were not supposed to receive this honor at such a young age and many saw this as corruption within the Church. Giovanni was made Pope in 1513 after the death of another relative, Julius II. He took the name Leo X.

Many events occurred during Leo's time as pope. The Crusades were still ongoing, there was warfare between different Italian city-states, and the Reformation began. Death of the Holy Roman Emperor only complicated his term. Despite these obstacles, Leo was known for his morality and as a good pope. He was known as a patron of learning and the arts. But he also was terrible with money. He used indulgences, his own salary, and even sold furniture to pay for his luxury items. He also spent a great deal of this money on charity.

Pope Leo X died suddenly of pneumonia in 1521. He died so suddenly, the last sacraments could not be administered. He left behind him political and religious turmoil. It was said that Leo never fully recognized the impact of Luther. He saw Luther as another heretic that would be pass in time.