riter of Protestantism's first systematic theology, *Loci communes rerum theologicarum*, published in 1521, Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) was a colleague of Martin Luther at Wittenberg University and a close friend of Luther's for many years. Though he was born Philipp Schwartzerdt in Bretten, Germany, his uncle and teacher called him "Melanchthon," the Greek version of his last name (meaning "black earth") for his achievement in Latin and Greek. He was a teacher of classics and philosophy as well as the author of numerous treatises, translations (including a revision of Luther's translation of the New Testament), and biblical commentaries. While Luther was confined in the Wartburg in 1521, Melanchthon headed the Reformation in Germany. During the controversy on Eucharistic doctrine, from 1525 to1536, he was a solid supporter of Luther against the followers of Ulrich Zwingli.

The chief architect of both the *Augsburg Confession* (1530) and *Apology of the Augsburg Confession* (1531), Melanchthon was often criticized for his conciliatory views towards Roman Catholicism. He was hailed as a major innovator in German education and seen by some as the primary organizer of the German public school system. His teachings on free will, known as synergism—cooperation between God and man—caused many to accuse him of being too humanistic. He faced strong objections from strict Lutherans due to his continued work to create areas of agreement with some Catholic views. He died in Wittenberg on April 19, 1560.

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Cover: Philipp Melanchthon and *Corpus doctrinae Christianae*, "Body of Christian Doctine," a textbook of Protestant theology compiled from the writings of Melancthon, including the *Augsburg Confession*, his *Apology of the Confession*, and his *Loci communes* ("Commonplaces"), Leipzig, 1572 (PHS).



CORPVS Doctrinæ Chriftianæ.

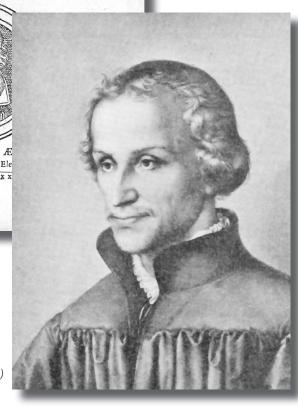
QVE EST SVMMA ORTHODOXI IT CATHOLICI DOGMATIS, COMPLECTENS doctrinam puram & veram Euangelij Ielu Chrifti, fecundum diuina Prophetarum & Apoftolorum fcripta, aliquot libris fideli ac pio ftudio explicata à Reuerendo viro

D. PHILIPPO MELANCHTHONE.

N V N C E D I T A A D V S V M E C C L E S T SANCTAE PVBLICYM ET PRIVATYM: ET AD TESTIMOnium confinatie a tque confendis conficentis & profitentis veritatem zternam doftrinæ cœleftis, integram ac fineram, in Ecclefijs & Scholis regionum Saxonicarum & Mifnicarum, fubditarum ditioni Principis Eleforis Saxonia, his totis Annis x xx t, cx quo Auguftana Confefsio oblata & edita eft: Et ad R E F Y T A T I O N E M mendaciorum ac calumniarum maleuolentiæ & obtrectationum.



L I P S I Æ Cum Privilegio Pr. Aug. Ele ANNOM.D.LXX



Philipp Melanchthon (1497–1560) German Reformer