Puritan MA Bay Colony eventually overtook Plymouth Colony.

Roman Catholic Church
(Pope = infallible head)

→ Reformation (1500s)
(Germany/Luther) → (England/King)

Purely religious reasons, believed RC church was corrupt; started the Protestant church movement with Lutheranism.

Personal reasons; wanted to divorce wife; made himself head of new church: Church of England, aka Anglican.

Some in England saw this as a God-given opportunity to really reform the Church by removing ALL vestiges of Roman Catholicism and return to a purely Bible-based faith. The Puritans wanted to purify the Anglican Church by getting rid of all RC “stuff.” Their religious beliefs were based on the teachings of European fundamentalist John Calvin (Calvinism).

The Separatists (Pilgrims) gave up on trying to purify the church and broke away completely, left England for Holland and then America.

Most Calvinists stayed in England, but many migrated to the New World a generation after the Pilgrims, around 1630. These later migrants were the Puritans.

Calvinism/ Puritanism

Puritans MA Bay Colony c. 1630

Pilgrims (Separatists) Plymouth Colony Bradford, Mayflower, 1620