

DENOMINATIONS COMPARISON



Menu

Family Tree

Catholic

Orthodox

Lutheran

Anglican

Presbyterian

Methodist

Anabaptist

Congregational

Baptist

Churches of Christ

Adventist

Pentecostal

Other Churches

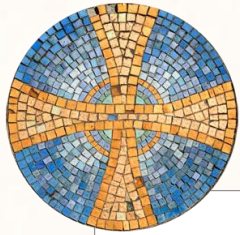
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Family Tree of Denominations

Menu

Orthodox Church (East)

1054



1054: Great Schism occurs
between East and West

Catholic Church (West)

Orthodox Church

Catholic Church

1517

Lutheran Church

1525

Anabaptists

1517: Protestant
Reformation
begins with
Martin Luther

1525: Protestants
in Zurich begin
believer's baptism



Orthodox Church

Catholic Church

1517

1534: King Henry VIII declared head of the Church of England (Anglican)



Anglican Church (Episcopal)

1534

Calvinist (Reformed)



1536: John Calvin writes *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

1536

Lutheran Church

1525

Anabaptists

Anglican Church (Episcopal)

1607: House church in England forced into exile

1612: English Puritans form first Baptist church

1607

1612

Baptists

Congregationalists

1620: Pilgrims set sail on the Mayflower



Calvinist (Reformed)

Lutheran Church

Anabaptists

1530: Hutterite

1537: Mennonite

1693: Amish

Anglican Church (Episcopal)



1738: Great Awakening Begins

1738

Methodists

1784: Methodists USA

1814: African Methodist Episcopal (AME)

1880: Salvation Army

1887: Christian and Missionary Alliances

1908: Church of the Nazarene

Baptists

Congregationalists

Calvinist (Reformed)

1789: Presbyterian Church USA

Lutheran Church

1885: Evangelical Covenant

1950: Evangelical Free

Anabaptists

1725: Mennonite USA

Methodists

1801: Cane Ridge Revival

Churches of Christ

Adventist Churches

1863: Seventh-day Adventist Church

1844: William Miller's prediction of Christ's advent (return)



Baptists

1845: Southern Baptist

1915: National Baptist

1924: American Baptist

Methodists

1901: Bible students in Kansas speak in tongues



1906: Azusa Street Revival begins with William Seymour

1901

Pentecostals

- 1886: Church of God (TN)
- 1907: Pentecostal Assemblies
- 1914: Assemblies of God
- 1927: Foursquare Gospel
- Charismatic:**
- 1965: Calvary Chapel
- 1983: Vineyard Ministries

Churches of Christ

Adventist Churches

1863: Seventh-day Adventist Church

1801

1844

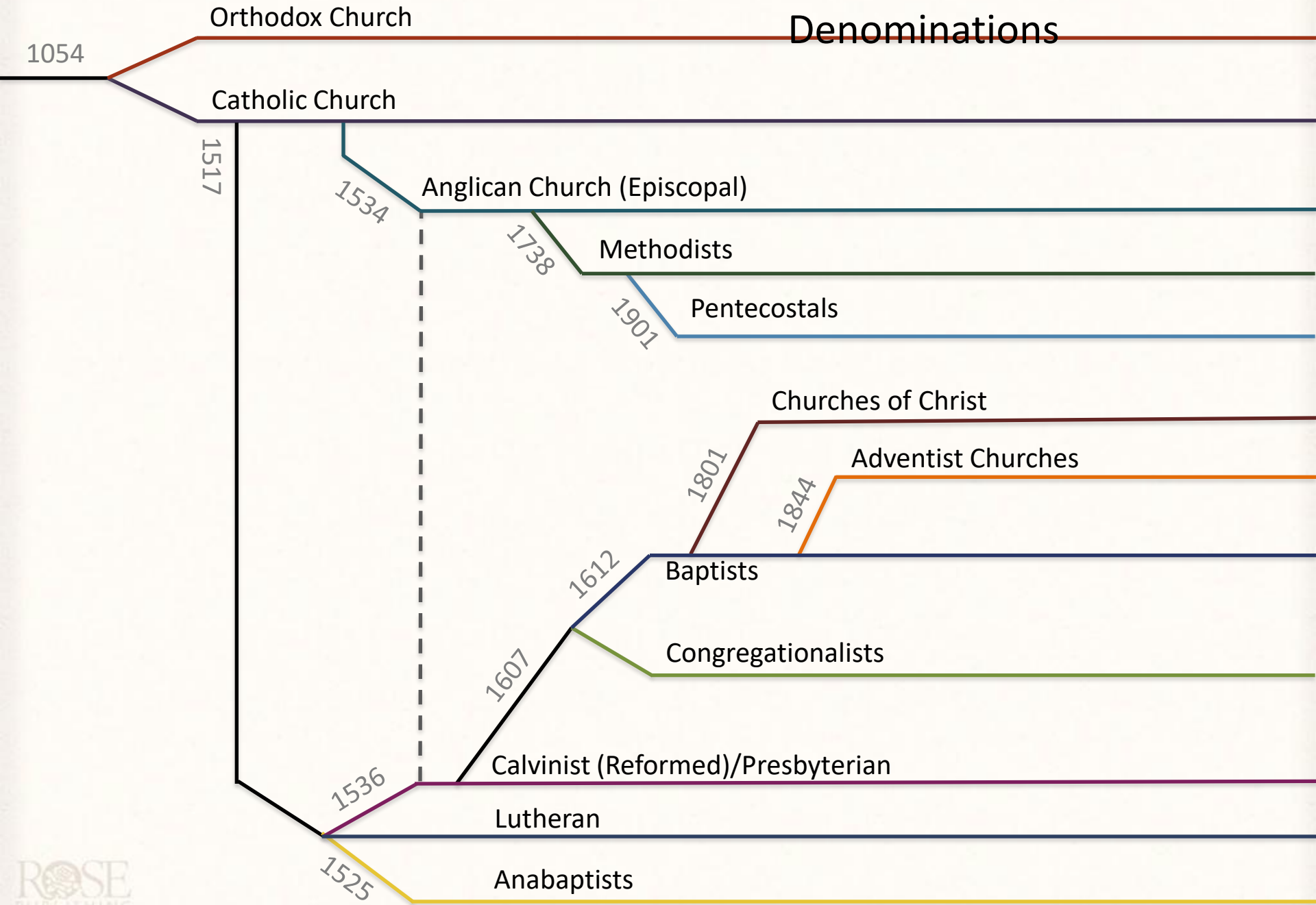
Baptists

1845: Southern Baptist

1915: National Baptist

1924: American Baptist

Family Tree of Denominations



Key Term

Liturgical

A form of corporate worship in which the priest or minister leads the congregation in readings and prayers from a prescribed text called a *liturgy*.

Liturgical Churches

Catholic
Orthodox
Lutheran
Anglican (Episcopal)
Presbyterian
Methodist

Non-Liturgical Churches

Anabaptist
Congregational
Baptist/Bible church
Churches of Christ
Adventist
Pentecostal
NT patterned churches

We will start with NT patterned churches

- Almost all of them follow the church foundation and practices based on Acts.2:42, they are:
 - **Brethren assemblies (Chapels, Gospel Halls)**
 - **Home Churches (China , India etc.)**
 - **Bakth Sing group (In India)**
- **We will review this again towards the end.**

**New Testament
patterned churches
(Brethren
Assemblies-but not
limited to)**

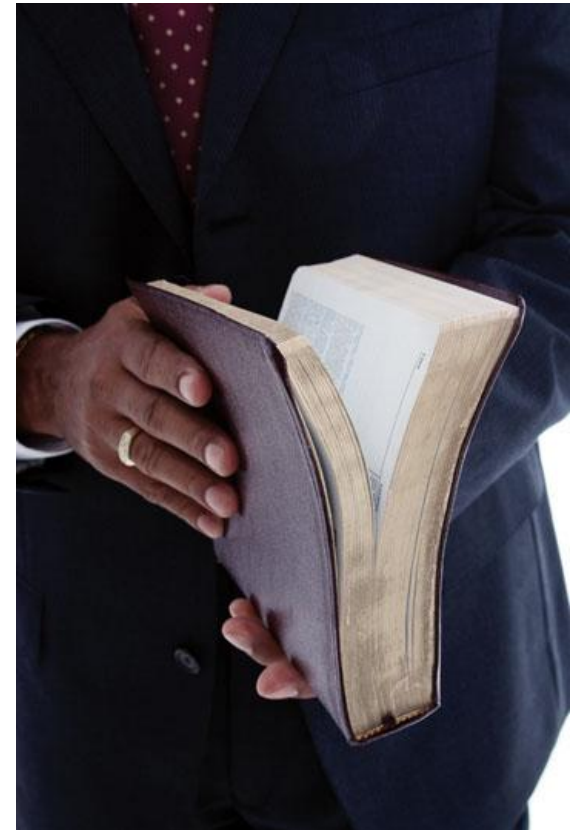
WHEN WAS IT FOUNDED ?

Menu

Founded in 1st century when the Lord established the NT church and confirmed by the Apostles

Scripture

- Scripture is inspired and without error, the sole, final, totally trustworthy rule of faith.
- The standard Protestant canon is accepted.
- 39 Old Testament
- 27 New Testament



God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
- **2 Cor.13:14** *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen”*

Lord Jesus Christ

- The eternal Son incarnate, Matt.17:5
- Fully God and fully human, John 10:30
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary, Mat.1:23
- Died on the Cross for our sins, Jn. 1:29
- Rose bodily from the grave, Mat. 28:6
- Ascended into heaven, Acts 1:9
- Will come again in glory to judge us all, 2 Cor. 5:10

Salvation

- We are saved by grace alone when God imputes to us his gift of righteousness through faith alone (*sola fide*) in Christ, who died for our sins. ***“For by grace you are saved – Eph 2:8”***
- Good works are the inevitable result of true faith, but in no way the basis of our right standing before God. James 2:17 ***“Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead”***.

Sacraments

Two and only two ordinances are given to the NT church.

- Baptism is immersion of believers only as a symbol of their faith in Christ. Acts 8:38,39
- The Lord's Supper is a symbolic memorial of Christ's death and anticipation of his return.
 - **1 Cor. 11:24,25**



After Death

- The souls of believers upon dying go immediately to be with Christ.
 - *...Desire to depart and be with Christ....” Phil. 1:23*
- At Christ’s return, believers’ bodies are raised to immortal, eternal life.
 - *1 Cor. 15:13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen*
- The wicked will suffer eternal punishment in hell. *Rev. 20:14 “Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire”*

Unique in faith and practices:

- 1) Weekly observance of Lord's supper, Act 20:7
- 2) Priesthood of every believer in worship, 1 Pet.2:5 (Worship as a Holy priest)
- 3) Priesthood of every believer in service, 2:9 serve as a king (Royal priest)

Unique in faith and practices:

4) Spiritual gifts application 1 Cor.12, Rom.12, Eph.4, 1Pet.4

5) Headship order in the church (head covering) 1 Cor.11

6) NT pattern of church administration, (Elders/deacons) 1 Tim.3

No one-man ministry/administration

These six truths, few denominations believe but none of them practice.

The Church

- The church (universal) is the body of Christ, which consists of the redeemed throughout church age (grace period).

Catholic Church

Menu

Founded

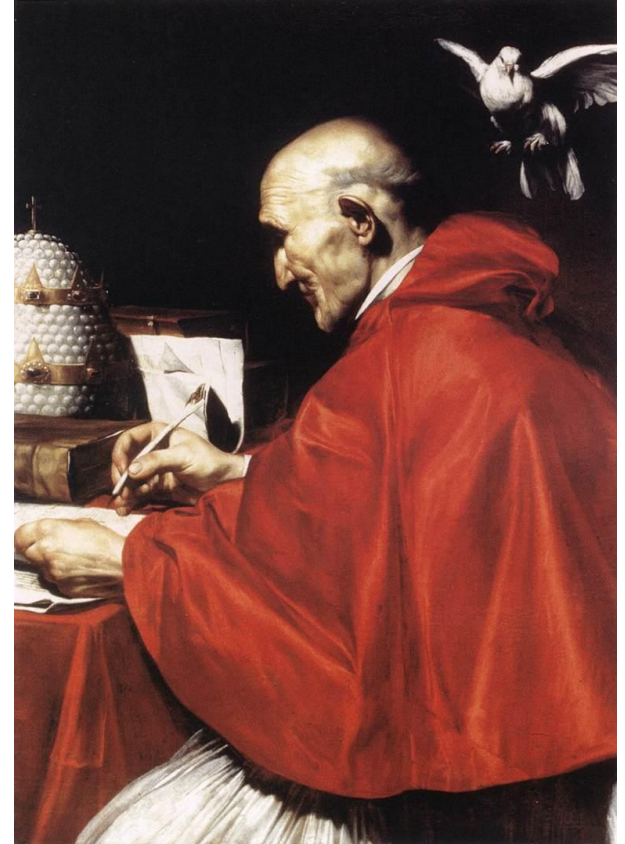
- Catholics consider Jesus' disciple Peter the first pope.



St. Peter's Basilica
at the Vatican

Founded

- Gregory the Great (AD 540–604) was a key figure in the pope's office.
- At that time, the pope came to be viewed as ruling over the whole church.



Pope Gregory the Great

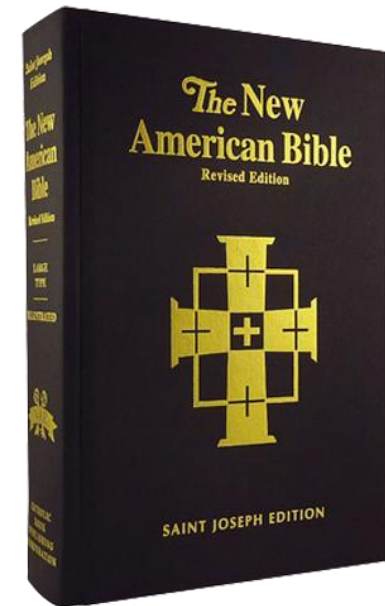
Adherents

- 1.2 billion Worldwide
- 69 million USA



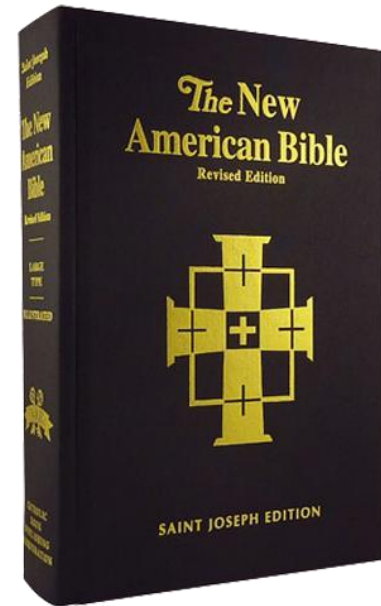
Scripture

- The Scriptures teach without error the truth needed for our salvation.
- Scripture must be interpreted within the Tradition of the Church.



Scripture

- The canon includes 46 books for the Old Testament including deuterocanonical books (the **Apocrypha**) and 27 books for the New Testament.



Key Term

Apocrypha

- Books considered part of the Old Testament in Catholic or Orthodox theology but not in Protestant theology (for example, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom of Solomon).
- Called *deuterocanonical* in Catholic theology.

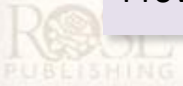
Books not included in the Protestant Old Testament in **blue**.

Roman Catholic Old Testament

Genesis	Ecclesiastes
Exodus	Song of Songs
Leviticus	Wisdom of Solomon
Numbers	Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)
Deuteronomy	Isaiah
Joshua	Jeremiah
Judges	Lamentations
Ruth	Baruch (includes letter of Jeremiah)
1 Samuel	Ezekiel
2 Samuel	Daniel (includes Susanna; Bel and the Dragon)
1 Kings	Hosea
2 Kings	Joel
1 Chronicles	Amos
2 Chronicles	Obadiah
Ezra	Jonah
Nehemiah	Micah
Tobit	Nahum
Judith	Habakkuk
Esther (additions)	Zephaniah
1 Maccabees	Haggai
2 Maccabees	Zechariah
Job	Malachi
Psalms	
Proverbs	

Greek Orthodox Old Testament

Genesis	Proverbs
Exodus	Ecclesiastes
Leviticus	Song of Songs
Numbers	Wisdom of Solomon
Deuteronomy	Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)
Joshua	Hosea
Judges	Amos
Ruth	Micah
1 Samuel	Joel
2 Samuel	Obadiah
1 Kings	Jonah
2 Kings	Nahum
1 Chronicles	Habakkuk
2 Chronicles	Zephaniah
1 Esdras	Haggai
Ezra	Zechariah
Nehemiah	Malachi
Esther (additions)	Isaiah
Judith	Jeremiah
Tobit	Baruch
1 Maccabees	Lamentations
2 Maccabees	Letter of Jeremiah
3 Maccabees	Ezekiel
Psalms (plus Ps. 151)	Daniel (includes Susanna; Bel and the Dragon)
Prayer of Manasseh	4 Maccabees (in appendix)
Job	Malachi



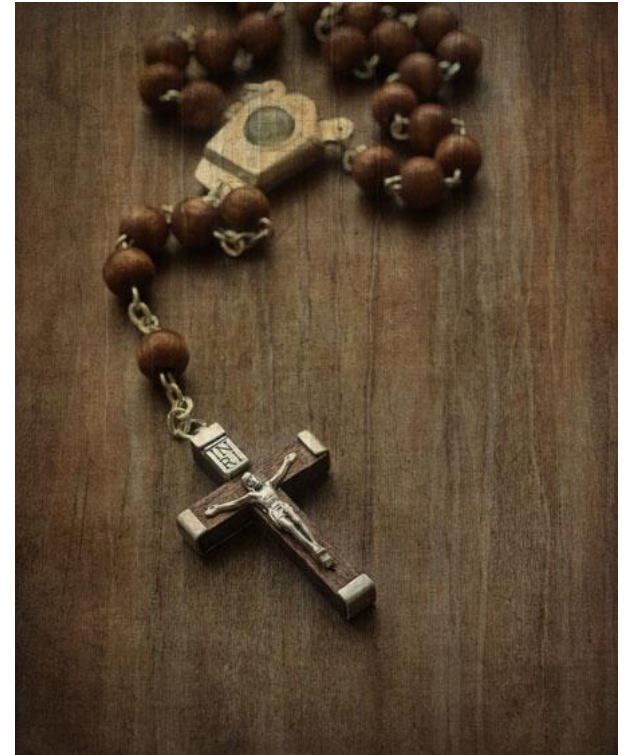
Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Bibles all contain the same 27 New Testament books.

God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

Jesus

- The eternal Son incarnate
- Fully God and fully man
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary
- Died on the cross for our sins
- Rose bodily from the grave
- Ascended into heaven
- Will come again in glory to judge us all



Salvation

- Christ died as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins.
- God by his grace infuses a supernatural gift of faith in Christ in those who are baptized, which is maintained by doing works of love and receiving Penance and the **Eucharist**.

Key Term

Eucharist

- Literally, “thanksgiving.”
- Term of choice in liturgical churches for Communion or the Lord’s Supper.

After Death

- The souls of the wicked at death are immediately consigned to eternal punishment in hell.
- The souls of the faithful go to heaven either immediately or, if imperfectly purified in this life, after **purgatory**.

Key Term

Purgatory

- A state or place to which believers go after death to have any remaining sin or impurity purged or removed before going to heaven.
- In the Catholic Church this is generally regarded as a place of temporal punishment; it is not so regarded in the Orthodox and Anglican churches.
- Most Protestants don't believe in Purgatory but rather in an immediate purgation of sin at death.

The Church

- The church is the Mystical Body of Christ, established by Christ with the bishop of Rome (the pope), who may at times pronounce dogma (doctrine required of all members) infallibly, as its earthly head.



Pope Francis
leads the vespers
Rome, January 25, 2014

The Church

- It is united (*one*) in a sacred (*holy*) worldwide (*catholic*) community through the succession of bishops whose ordination goes back to the apostles (*apostolic*).
- Christians not in communion with the Catholic Church are called “separated brethren.”



Sacraments

- Baptism removes original sin (usually in infants).
- In the Eucharist, the substances (but not the properties) of bread and wine are changed into Jesus' body and blood (transubstantiation).



Other Beliefs and Practices

- Mary was conceived by her mother immaculately (free of original sin), remained a virgin perpetually, and was assumed bodily into heaven.



Other Beliefs and Practices

- She is the Mother of the Church and is considered an object of devotion and veneration (a show of honor that stops short of worship).



Divisions and Trends

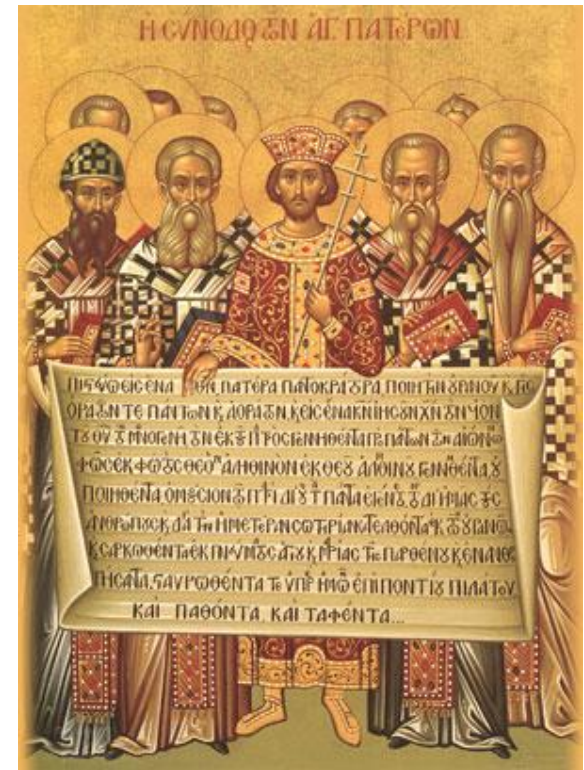
- About one-fourth of Catholics are doctrinally conservative.
- Many priests and members tend to accept liberal, pluralist beliefs contrary to church teaching.

Orthodox Church

Menu

Founded

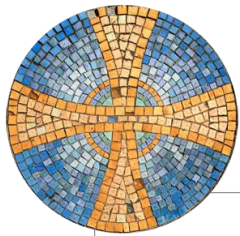
- AD 330: Emperor Constantine renamed the city of Byzantium “Constantinople.”
- Constantinople became the city of the leading patriarch in the Great Schism of AD 1054.



Emperor Constantine with
Church Fathers and the
Nicene Creed

Orthodox Church (East)

1054



1054: Great Schism occurs
between East and West

Catholic Church (West)

Key Term

Orthodox

- (1) *Lowercased.* Adhering to the essentials of the Christian faith, especially as articulated in the early creeds; in this sense the “orthodox” include conservative Catholics, Protestants, and Orthodox.
- (2) *Capitalized.* Having to do with the association of church bodies of Eastern Europe and the Middle East that became divided from Rome and the churches aligned with it in Western Europe in the Great Schism of 1054.

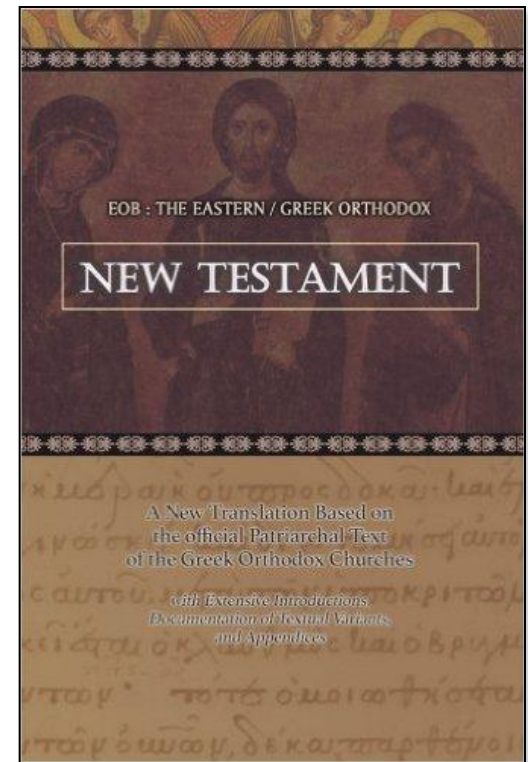
Adherents

- 260 million worldwide
- 1 million USA



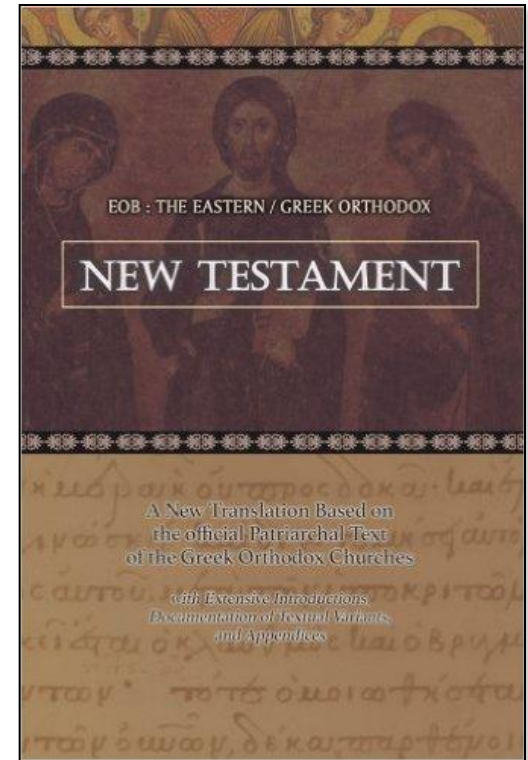
Scripture

- The Scriptures are without error in matters of faith only.
- Scripture is to be interpreted by Sacred Tradition, especially the seven Ecumenical Councils which met from AD 325–787.



Scripture

- The **canon** includes:
 - The 49 Old Testament books (the Catholic Bible plus three more).
 - The 27 New Testament books.



Key Term

Canon

- Canon refers to the authoritative list of books belonging in the Bible (or in the Old or New Testament).

God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

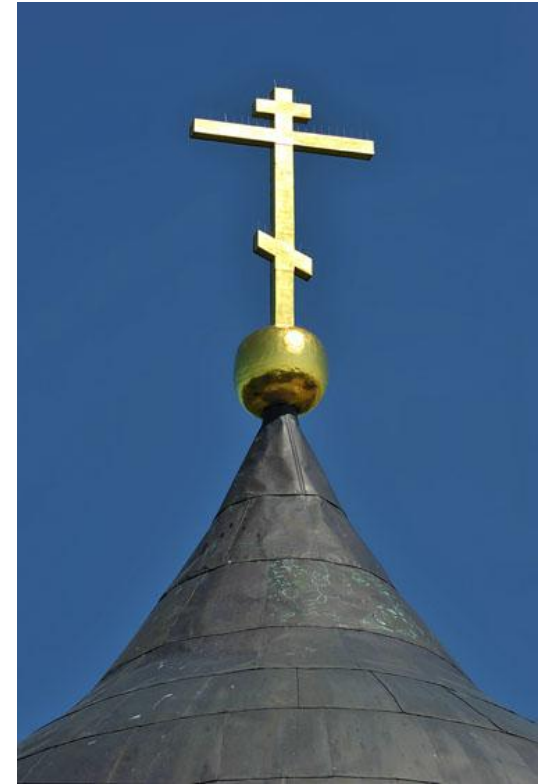
Jesus

- Eternal Son incarnate
- Fully God and fully man
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary
- Died on the Cross for our sins
- Rose bodily from the grave
- Ascended into heaven
- Will come again in glory to judge us all



Salvation

- In Christ, God became human so that human beings might be deified (*theosis*), that is, have the energy of God's life in them.
- Through baptism and participation in the church, God's people receive the benefits of Christ's redeeming work as they persevere.

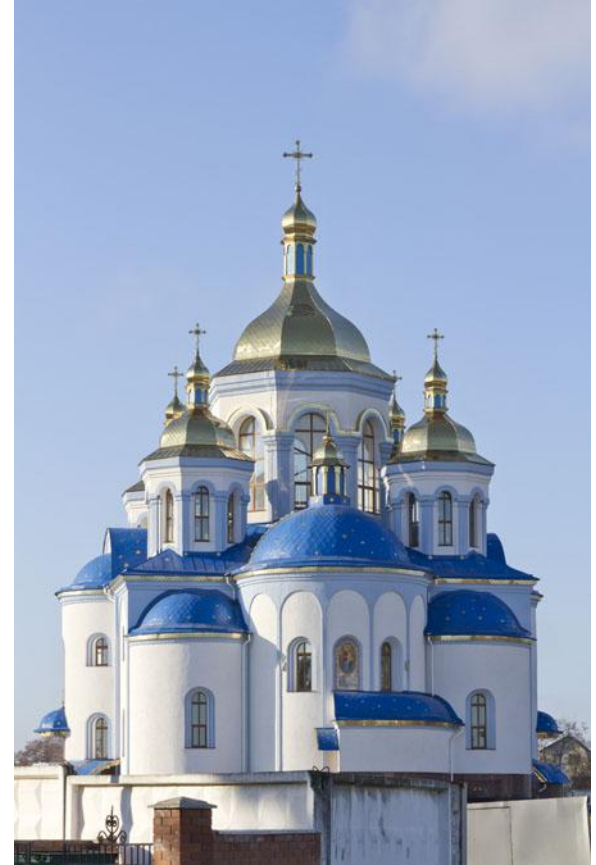


After Death

- At death, the souls of the faithful are purified as needed (a process of growth, not punishment), then get a foretaste of eternal blessing in heaven.
- The souls of the wicked get a foretaste of eternal torment in hell.

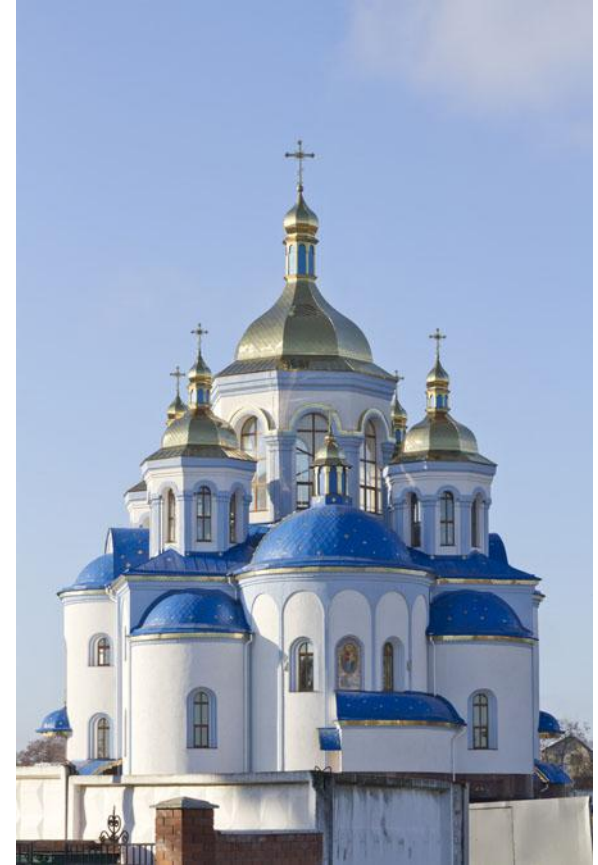
The Church

- The church is the Body of Christ in unbroken historical connection to the apostles, changelessly maintaining the faith of the undivided church as expressed in the creeds.



The Church

- It is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
- Churches organized nationally: Armenian, Greek, Russian, and so forth.



The Church

- Its bishops under the leadership of **patriarchs** (the pope being recognized as one of several), of which that of Constantinople has primacy of honor.

Key Term

Patriarch

In the Orthodox Churches, the bishop recognized as the leader of all Orthodox bishops under his jurisdiction (usually a nation or ethnic group, such as Greeks, Armenians, or Russians).

Sacraments

- Baptism initiates God's life in the one baptized (usually infants).
- In the Eucharist, bread and wine are changed into Jesus' body and blood (a Mystery to be left unexplained).



Other Beliefs and Practices

- Icons (images of Christ, Mary, or the saints) are objects of veneration through which God is to be worshiped.
- Mary conceived Jesus virginally. She remained a virgin perpetually, and (in tradition, not dogma) was assumed bodily into heaven.



Divisions and Trends

- A significant proportion are doctrinally conservative.
- Most Orthodox bodies are members of the World Council of Churches, whose liberal leanings have long caused concern.



Lutheran Churches

Menu

Founded

- 1517: Martin Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses* (challenges to Catholic teaching) usually marks the beginning of the **Protestant Reformation**.



Martin Luther

Orthodox Church

Catholic Church

1517

Lutheran Church

1885: Evangelical Covenant 1950: Evangelical Free



1517: Protestant
Reformation
begins with
Martin Luther

Key Term

Protestant Reformation

- Movement originally calling for reform of the doctrines, preaching, and rites of the Catholic Church, ignited by the work of Martin Luther, and which resulted in the secession of many churches from the Catholic Church.
- All of the church bodies profiled in this presentation are Protestant except for the Catholic and Orthodox churches (although the Anglican Church also regards itself as Catholic).

Founded

- 1530: The Augsburg **Confession** is the first formal Lutheran statement of faith.

Key Term

Confession

- A document stating what a particular church body or other group of Christians believe in common
- Examples: Augsburg Confession (Lutheran)
Westminster Confession of Faith (Presbyterian)

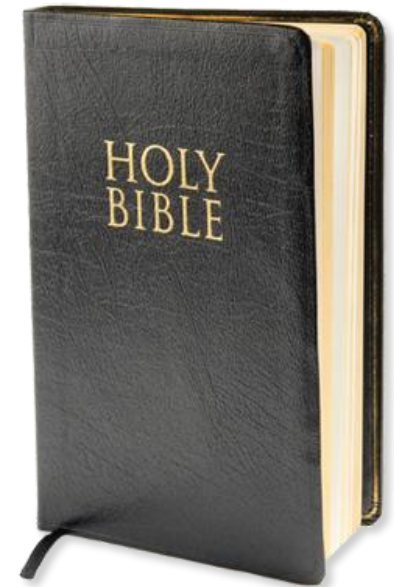
Adherents

- 80 million worldwide
- 6–7 million USA



Scripture

- Scripture alone is the authoritative witness to the gospel (some parts more directly or fully than others).
- The standard Protestant canon of 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books is accepted.
- Conservatives view Scripture as **inerrant**.



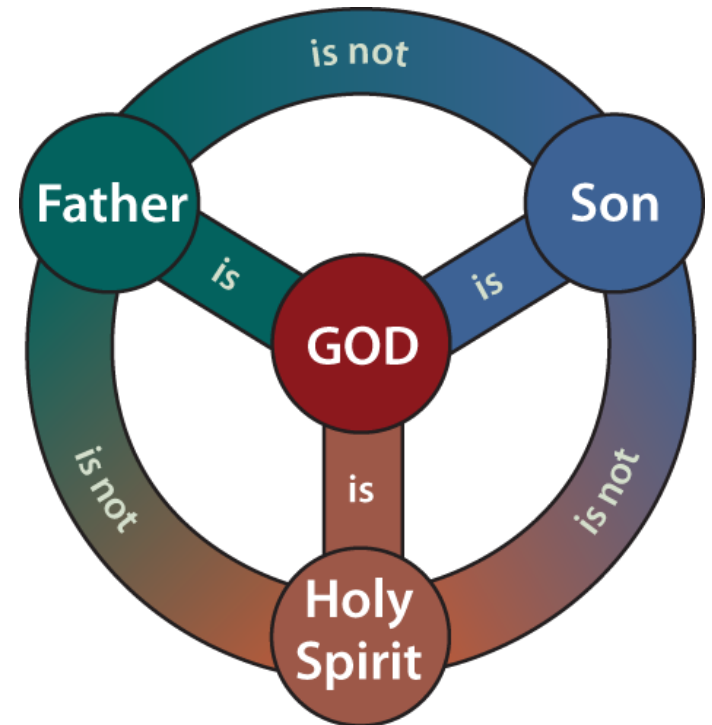
Key Term

Inerrant

- Meaning, “without error.”
- Used by evangelicals with reference to the complete trustworthiness of the Bible in all matters on which it speaks.

God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).



Jesus

- The eternal Son incarnate
- Fully God and fully man
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary
- Died on the cross for our sins
- Rose bodily from the grave
- Ascended into heaven
- Will come again in glory to judge us all

Salvation

- We are saved by grace alone when God imputes to us his gift of righteousness through faith alone (*sola fide*) in Christ, who died for our sins.
- Good works are the inevitable result of true faith, but in no way the basis of our right standing before God.



After Death

- The souls of believers upon dying go immediately to be with Christ, and at Christ's return, their bodies are raised to immortal, eternal life.
- The souls of the wicked begin suffering immediately in hell.

The Church

- The church is the congregation of believers (though mixed with the lost) in which the gospel is taught and the sacraments rightly administered.
- All believers are “priests” in that they have direct access to God.



The Church

- All ministers are pastors; some serve as bishops.
- Historically, **apostolic succession** has been rejected.



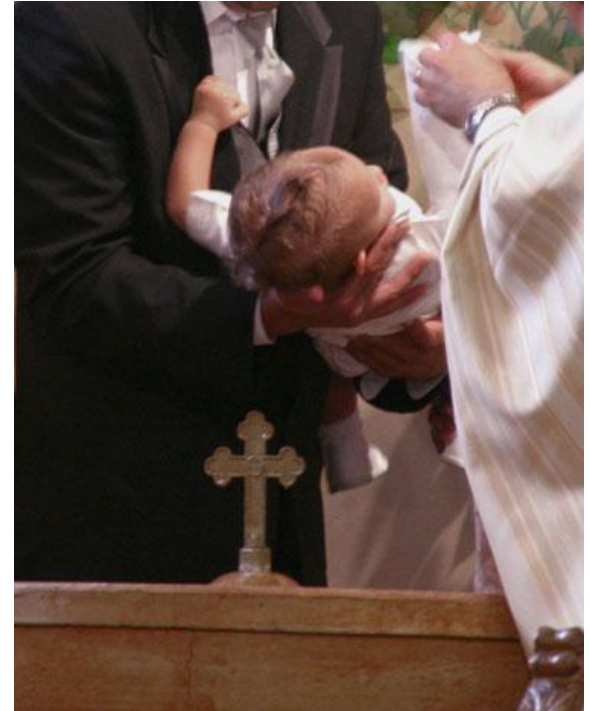
Key Term

Apostolic Succession

- The doctrine that there is an unbroken line of succession from the original apostles of Jesus Christ to bishops of today.
- Only bishops in proper succession may ordain priests authorized to perform the sacraments.

Sacraments

- Baptism is necessary for salvation; in it both adults and infants are given God's grace.
- The Lord's Supper remains truly bread and wine but also becomes truly Jesus' body and blood (consubstantiation).



Other Beliefs and Practices

- The church's liturgy is similar to the Episcopal.
- Conservative Lutherans generally affirm that God chooses who will be saved before they believe.



Other Beliefs and Practices

- In 2009 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) opened the ministry to gay and lesbian pastors in committed relationships.



Divisions and Trends

- The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is doctrinally conservative.
- In 1999 the ELCA approved full communion with the Episcopal Church. The ELCA is the **mainline** church.



Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod



Key Term

Mainline

- A Protestant denomination generally originating before 1900 (though it may have undergone recent mergers), from which theologically conservative congregations have separated (for example, the United Methodist Church).

Anglican Churches

Menu

Orthodox Church

Catholic Church

1534: King Henry VIII declared
head of the Church of England
(Anglican)



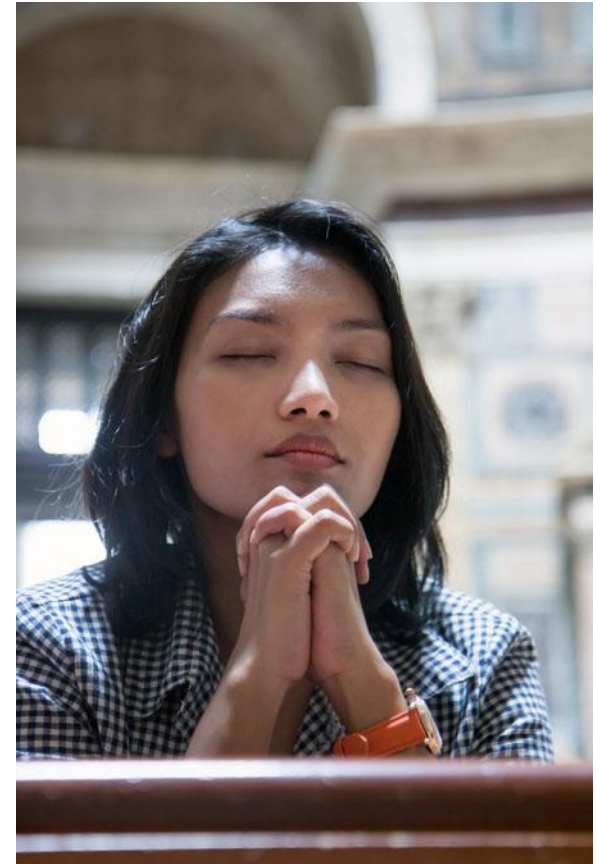
Anglican Church (Episcopal)

1534

Lutheran Church

Adherents

- 80 million worldwide
- 2 million USA



Scripture

- Scripture contains the truth that is necessary for salvation and is the primary norm for faith, but must be interpreted in light of tradition and reason.
- The canon includes 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books.
- The Apocrypha is respected but not viewed as Scripture.

God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).



Jesus

- The eternal Son incarnate
- Fully God and fully man
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary
- Died on the cross for our sins
- Rose bodily from the grave
- Ascended into heaven
- Will come again in glory to judge us all



Salvation

- Christ suffered and died as an offering for sin, freeing us from sin and reconciling us to God.
- We share in Christ's victory when in baptism we become living members of the church, believing in him and keeping his commandments.



After Death

- The souls of the faithful are purified as needed to enjoy full communion with God, and at Christ's return they are raised to the fullness of eternal life in heaven.
- Those who reject God face eternal death.

The Church

- The church is the Body of Christ, whose unity is based on the “apostolic succession” of bishops going back to the apostles, of whom the bishop of Rome is one of many.
- It is one, holy, **catholic**, and apostolic.



Canterbury Cathedral

Key Term

Catholic

Literally, “universal”

(1) Lowercased. The faithful church in all its expressions worldwide.

(2) Capitalized. Having to do with the church body headed by the Pope. (The Catholic Church)

The Church

- The Anglican communion is a part of the church, whose unity worldwide is represented by the archbishop of Canterbury.
- The church in the USA is known as the Episcopal Church.



Canterbury Cathedral

Sacraments

- The sacraments are “outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace.”
- Infants and converts are made part of the church in baptism.
- Christ’s body and blood are really present in Communion.

Other Beliefs and Practices

- Members are free to accept or reject the Catholic doctrines of Mary.
- The Book of Common Prayer is the norm for liturgy.
- Priests may marry.



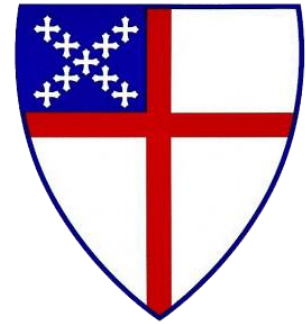
Other Beliefs and Practices

- In 1976 the Episcopal Church approved the ordination of women.
- In 2009 the Episcopal Church approved the ordination of gay bishops and allowed bishops to bless same-sex unions.



Divisions and Trends

- In the USA, most belong to the Episcopal Church.
- The 39 Articles (1571) are the doctrinal basis for conservative splinter groups, such as the Reformed Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church in North America.



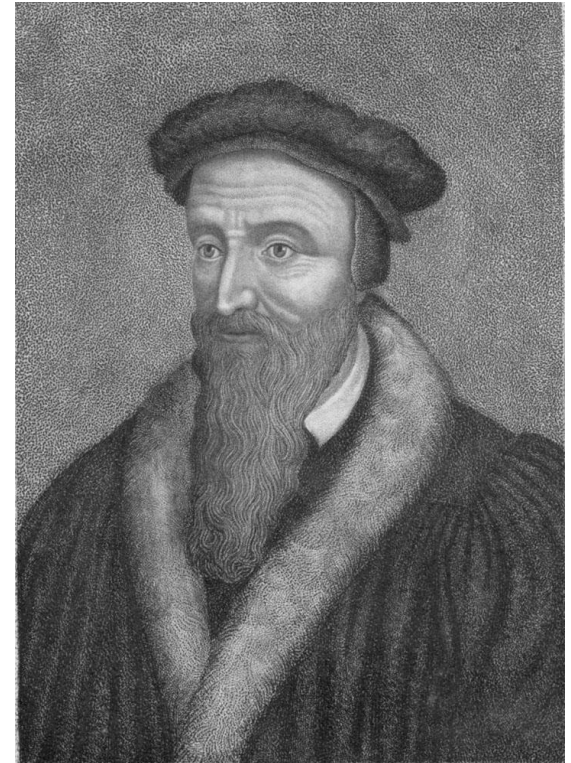
Anglican Church in North America

Presbyterian Churches

Menu

Founded

- 1536: John Calvin writes *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.
- 1643–1649: Westminster Standards define Presbyterian doctrine.
- 1789: Presbyterian Church (USA) first organized.



John Calvin

Orthodox Church

Catholic Church

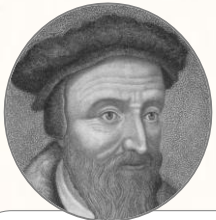
Anglican Church (Episcopal)

Calvinist (Reformed)

1789: Presbyterian Church USA

Lutheran Church

1536



1536: John Calvin
writes *Institutes of
the Christian
Religion*

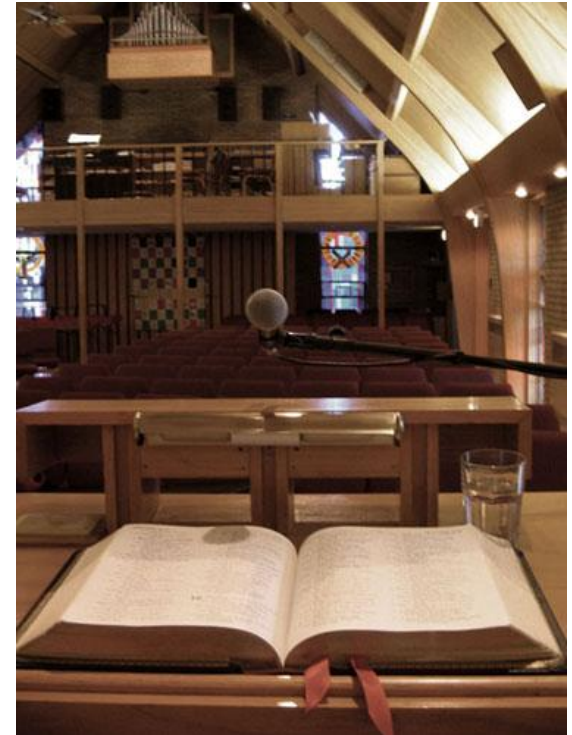
Adherents

- 40–50 million worldwide
- 2 million USA



Scripture

- Historic view:
 - Scripture is inspired and infallible, the sole, final rule of faith.
- The Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA):
 - Scripture is “the witness without parallel” to Christ, but in merely human words reflecting beliefs of the time.
- The standard Protestant canon is accepted.



God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

Jesus

- The eternal Son incarnate
- Fully God and fully man
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary
- Died on the cross for our sins
- Rose bodily from the grave
- Ascended into heaven
- Will come again in glory to judge us all

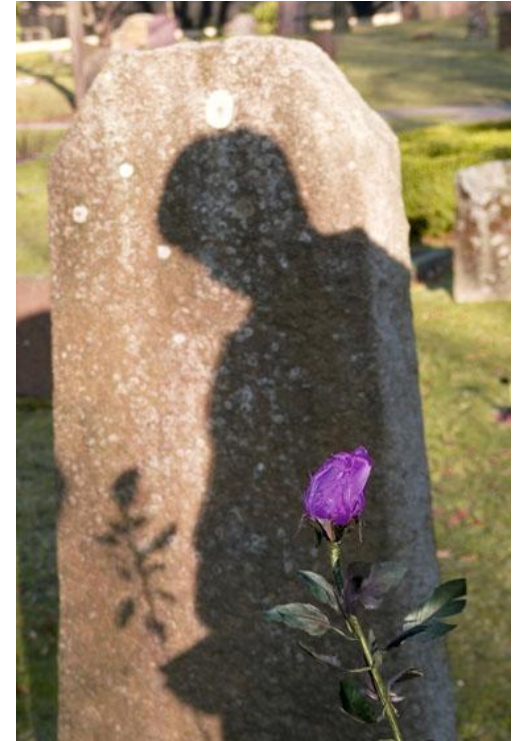


Salvation

- We are saved by grace alone when God imputes to us his gift of righteousness through faith alone (*sola fide*) in Christ, who died for our sins.
- Good works are the inevitable result of true faith, but in no way the basis of our right standing before God.

After Death

- The souls of believers upon dying go immediately to be with Christ.
- At Christ's return, their bodies are raised to immortal, eternal life.
- The souls of the wicked begin suffering immediately in hell.



The Church

- The church is the body of Christ, including all whom God has chosen as his people, represented by the visible church, composed of churches that vary in purity and corruption.
- Christ alone is the head of the church.



The Church

- Congregations choose elders to govern them.
- Regional groups of elders (presbyteries) meet in denomination-wide General Assemblies.



Sacraments

- Baptism is not necessary for salvation but is a sign of the new covenant of grace, for adults and infants.
- Jesus' body and blood are spiritually present to believers in the Lord's Supper.



Beliefs and Practices

- Conservatives affirm the five points of Calvinism:
 1. Humans are so sinful that they cannot initiate return to God.
 2. God chooses who will be saved.
 3. Christ died specifically to save those whom God chose.
 4. God infallibly draws to Christ those whom he chooses.
 5. They will never fall away.



Divisions and Trends

- The Presbyterian Church (USA), or PCUSA, is the mainline church.
- The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) is the largest doctrinally conservative church body.



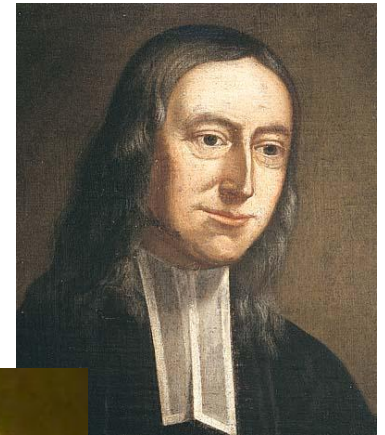
PCA

Methodist Churches

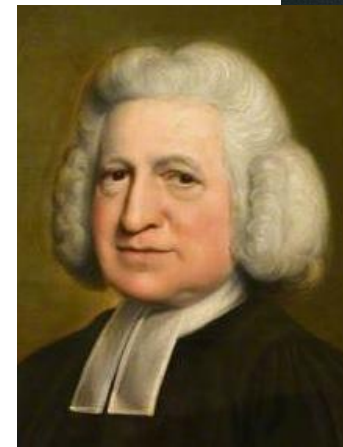
Menu

Founded

- 1738: Conversion of John and Charles Wesley—already devout Anglican ministers—sparks the Great Awakening.
- 1784: USA Methodists form separate church body.



John Wesley



Charles Wesley

Catholic Church

Anglican Church (Episcopal)



1738: Great
Awakening
Begins

1738

Methodists

1784: Methodists USA

1814: African Methodist Episcopal (AME)

1880: Salvation Army

1887: Christian and Missionary Alliances

1908: Church of the Nazarene

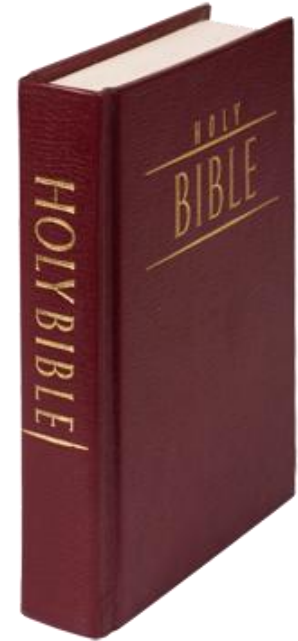
Adherents

- 61–80 million worldwide
- 11 million USA



Scripture

- Historical view:
 - Scripture is inspired and infallible, the sole, final rule of faith.
- United Methodist Church:
 - Scripture is “the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine,” but (for most) not infallible.
- The standard Protestant canon is accepted.



God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

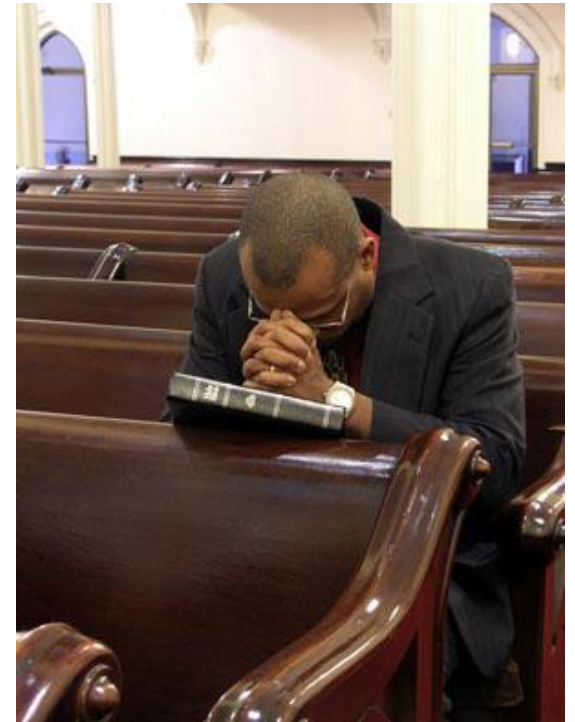
Jesus

- The eternal Son incarnate
- Fully God and fully man
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary
- Died on the cross for our sins
- Rose bodily from the grave
- Ascended into heaven
- Will come again in glory to judge us all



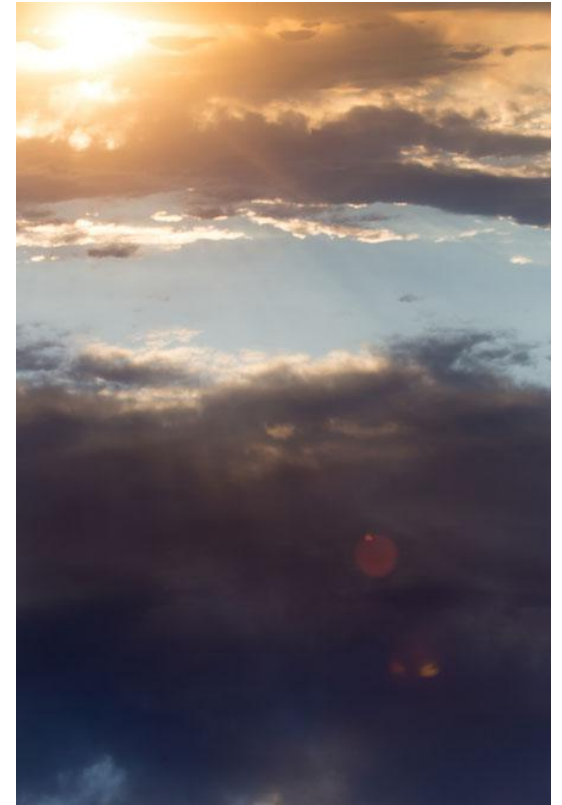
Salvation

- We are saved by grace alone when God regenerates and forgives us through faith in Christ, who died for our sins.
- Good works are the necessary result of true faith, but do not obtain forgiveness or salvation.



After Death

- The souls of believers upon dying go immediately to be with Christ.
- At Christ's return, believers' bodies are raised to immortal, eternal life.
- The wicked will suffer eternal punishment in hell.



The Church

- The church is the body of Christ, represented by visible church institutions.
- Bishops oversee regions and appoint pastors.
- All pastors are itinerant, meaning they move from one church to the next as directed by the bishop (on average once every four years).
- In the United Methodist Church, **clergy and laity** meet together in a national “General Conference” every four years.

Key Term

Clergy and Laity

- *Clergy* refers to priests, ministers, pastors, and other official church leaders, usually said to be ordained (specially recognized as having a spiritual responsibility as a leader in the church).
- *Laity* refers to all church members not holding official church leadership offices.

Sacraments

- Baptism is a sign of regeneration and of the new covenant and is for adults and children.
- Jesus is really present, and his body and blood are spiritually present, to believers in the Lord's Supper.



Other Beliefs and Practices

- “Entire sanctification” is a work of the Spirit subsequent to regeneration by which fully consecrated believers are purified of all sin and fit for service—a state maintained by faith and obedience.
- Methodists are **Arminian**, that is, they disagree with all five points of Calvinism.

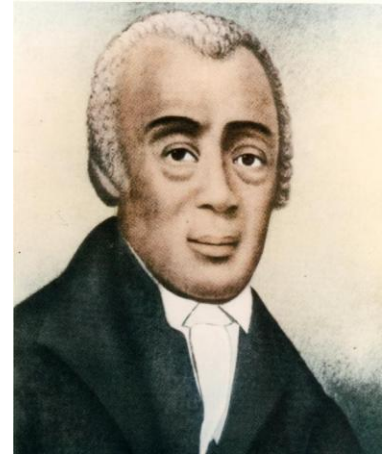
Key Term

Arminian

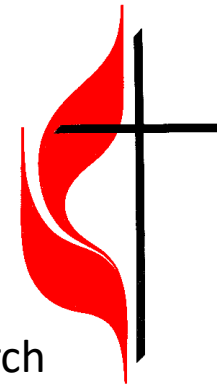
- (1) In the theological tradition of Jacob Arminius (1560–1609), a theologian in early Dutch Calvinism who broke with the Calvinist mainstream on matters pertaining to predestination.
- (2) Somewhat loosely, any Protestant who rejects the Calvinist view of predestination and related doctrines (especially most Anglicans, Methodists, Churches of Christ, and Pentecostals).

Divisions and Trends

- Mainline churches:
 - United Methodist Church (7.7 million)
 - African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church bodies (2.5 million)
- The Free Methodists are a small conservative body.



Richard Allen,
founder of AME



United Methodist Church



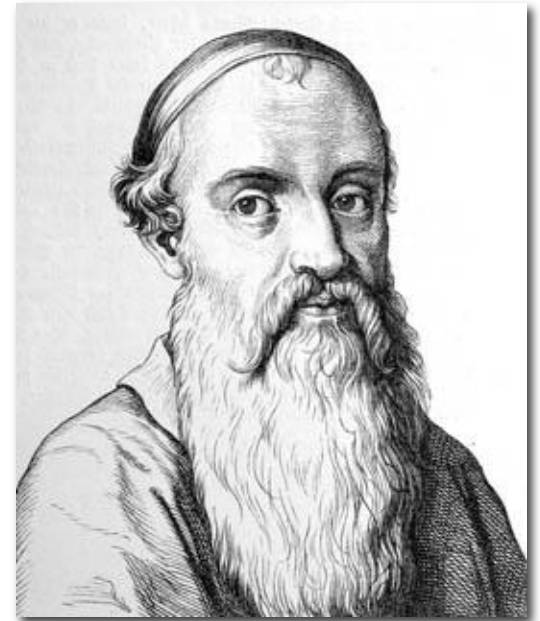
Anabaptist Churches

Menu

ROSE

Founded

- 1525: Protestants in Zurich begin **believer's baptism**.
- 1537: Menno Simons begins leading Mennonite movement.
- 1682: A Quaker, William Penn, founds Pennsylvania.



Menno Simons

Calvinist (Reformed)

Lutheran Church

Anabaptists

1530: Hutterite

1537: Mennonite

1693: Amish

1525: Protestants in
Zurich begin
believer's baptism

Key Term

Believer's Baptism

- Churches that practice believer's baptism baptize only those who personally believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- Thus, infants and very young children are not baptized in these churches.
- The method of baptism in these churches is most often immersion, as a way of identifying with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

Adherents

- 2 million worldwide
- 500,000 USA



Mennonites pray in New York City near the World Trade Center site (Sept. 11, 2014)

Scripture

- Most view Scripture as the inspired means for knowing and following Jesus, but not as infallible.
- Jesus is the living Word. Scripture is the written Word that points to him.
- The standard Protestant canon is accepted.
- How believers live is emphasized over having correct doctrine.

God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, revealed in Jesus through the Holy Spirit.
- Most affirm the Trinity in some way.

Jesus

- The Savior of the world, a man in whom God's love and will are revealed by his life of service and his suffering and death.
- His deity, virgin birth, and resurrection are traditionally affirmed.



Salvation

- Salvation is a personal experience in which, through faith in Jesus, we become at peace with God, moving us to follow Jesus' example as his disciples by living as peacemakers in the world.



After Death

- No official view of what happens immediately after death.
- At Christ's return God's people will be raised to eternal life and the unrepentant will be forever separated from God (the traditional view).

The Church

- The church is the body of Christ, the assembly and society of Christ's disciples who follow him in the power of the Spirit.
- It is to be marked by holiness, love, service, a simple lifestyle, and peacemaking.

Quaker Meeting House in Rhode Island, built in 1699



The Church

- No one system of church government is recognized.
- Leadership is to be characterized by humble service and is primarily but not exclusively local.

Quaker Meeting House in
Rhode Island, built in 1699



Sacraments

- Baptism is for believers only, a sign of commitment to follow Jesus.
- The Lord's Supper is a memorial of his death.
- Most Quakers view sacraments as spiritual only, not external rites.



Other Beliefs and Practices

- Anabaptists and similar bodies are “peace churches,” teaching nonresistance and pacifism—the view that all participation in war is wrong.
- Doctrine is deemphasized, and liberal views with social emphasis prevail in some church bodies, including most Quaker churches.

Divisions and Trends

- The Mennonite Church and Church of the Brethren are the largest bodies.
- The Amish (1693) are a variety of Mennonites.
- Quakers (Friends) originated separately but share much in common with Anabaptists.



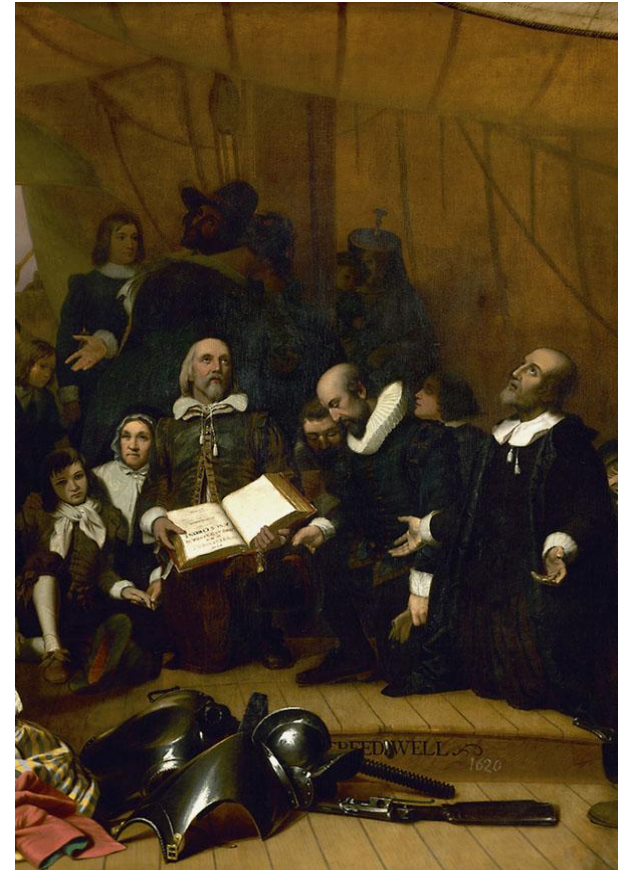
Congregational Churches

Menu

Congregational Churches

Founded

- 1607: Members of a house church in England, illegal at that time, are forced into exile.
- 1620: Congregationalists called Pilgrims sail on the *Mayflower* to Plymouth (now in Massachusetts).



1607: House church
in England forced
into exile



1620: Pilgrims set sail
on the Mayflower

Congregationalists

1607

Calvinist (Reformed)

Lutheran Church

Anabaptists

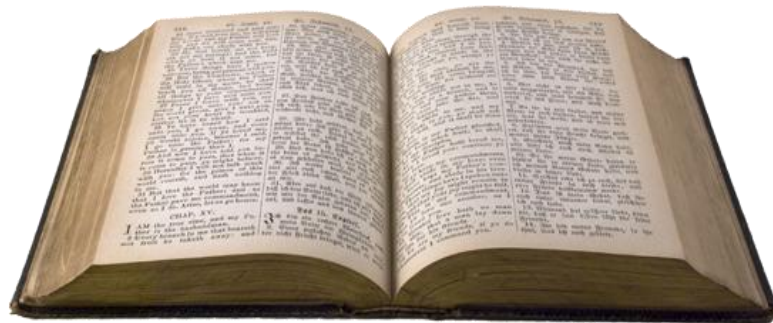
Adherents

- 2.5 million worldwide
- 1 million USA

Congregational Churches

Scripture

- Most view Scripture as “the authoritative witness to the Word of God” that was living in Jesus, rather than viewing Scripture as the unerring Word of God.
- The Bible and creeds are seen as “testimonies of faith, not tests of faith.”
- The standard Protestant canon is accepted.



God

- The Eternal Spirit who calls the worlds into being and is made known in the man Jesus.

Congregational Churches

Jesus

- The crucified and risen Savior and Lord, in whom we are reconciled to God.
- His deity and virgin birth are widely ignored or rejected except in the conservative church bodies.



Salvation

- God promises forgiveness and grace to save “from sin and aimlessness” all who trust him, who accept his call to serve the whole human family.



After Death

- Those who trust in God and live as Jesus' disciples are promised eternal life in God's kingdom.
- No position is taken on the future of the wicked. Most reject the idea of eternal punishment.

The Church

- The church is the people of God living as Jesus' disciples by serving humanity as agents of God's reconciling love.
- Each local church is self-governing and chooses its own ministers.



The Church

- The United Church of Christ is not part of the “Churches of Christ” but was formed in 1957 as the union of the:
 - Congregational Christian Churches, and;
 - The Evangelical and Reformed Church, a liberal Protestant body.



Sacraments

- Congregations may practice infant baptism or believer's baptism or both.
- Sacraments are symbols of spiritual realities.

Congregational Churches

Other Beliefs and Practices

- The United Church of Christ (UCC) is one of the most theologically liberal denominations in the USA.
- Individual ministers and churches vary widely in belief.
- The United Church of Christ ordains openly homosexual men and women to ministry.



Congregational Churches

Divisions and Trends

- United Church of Christ is staunchly liberal (1.5 million).
- The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches is a mainline body (110,000).
- The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference is evangelical (38,000).



National Assoc. of
Congregational
Christian Churches



Conservative
Congregational
Christian Conference

Baptist Churches

Menu

Founded

- 1612: John Smythe and other English **Puritans** form the first Baptist church.
- 1639: The first Baptist church in America is established in Providence, Rhode Island.



First Baptist Church in America
(Providence, Rhode Island)

1607: House church in England forced into exile

1612: English Puritans form first Baptist church

1607

1612

Baptists

1845: Southern Baptist 1915: National Baptist 1924: American Baptist

Congregationalists

Calvinist (Reformed)

Lutheran Church

Anabaptists

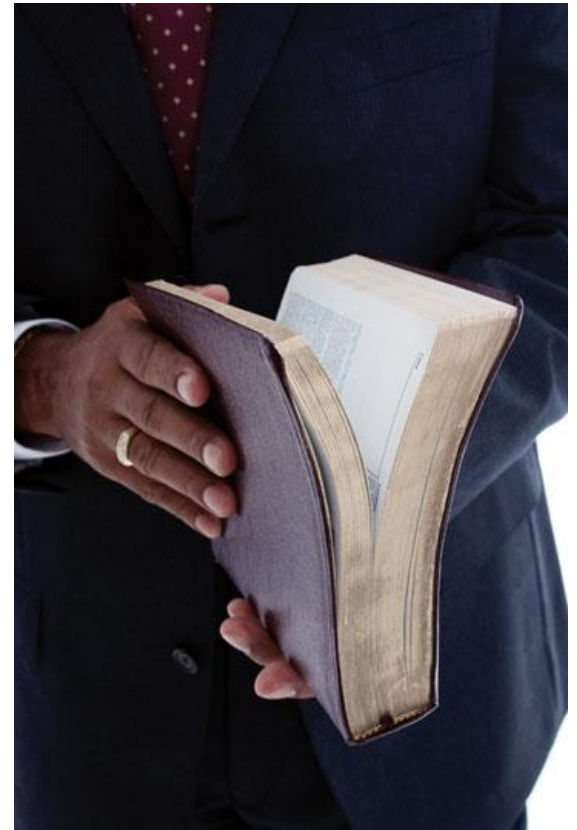
Key Term

Puritans

- English Protestants who embraced Reformed (Calvinist) theology and wanted to purify the Church of England from supposed corruption, especially ornate church décor and priestly garments.

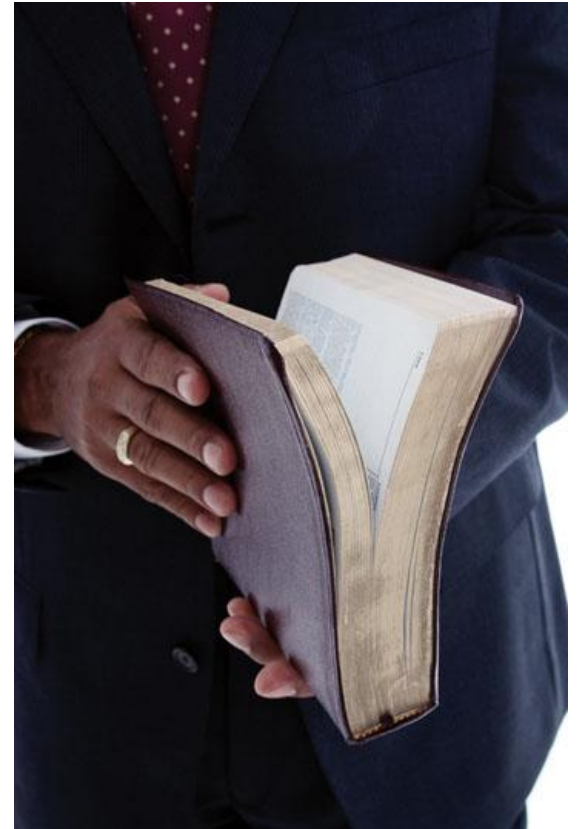
Adherents

- 100 million worldwide
- 33 million USA



Scripture

- Scripture is inspired and without error, the sole, final, totally trustworthy rule of faith.
- The standard Protestant canon is accepted.
- Mainline churches vary in the extent to which they continue to view Scripture as without error.



God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

Jesus

- The eternal Son incarnate
- Fully God and fully human
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary
- Died on the Cross for our sins
- Rose bodily from the grave
- Ascended into heaven
- Will come again in glory to judge us all



Salvation

- We are saved by grace alone when God imputes to us his gift of righteousness through faith alone (*sola fide*) in Christ, who died for our sins.
- Good works are the inevitable result of true faith, but in no way the basis of our right standing before God.

After Death

- The souls of believers upon dying go immediately to be with Christ.
- At Christ's return, believers' bodies are raised to immortal, eternal life.
- The wicked will suffer eternal punishment in hell.

The Church

- The church (universal) is the body of Christ, which consists of the redeemed throughout history.

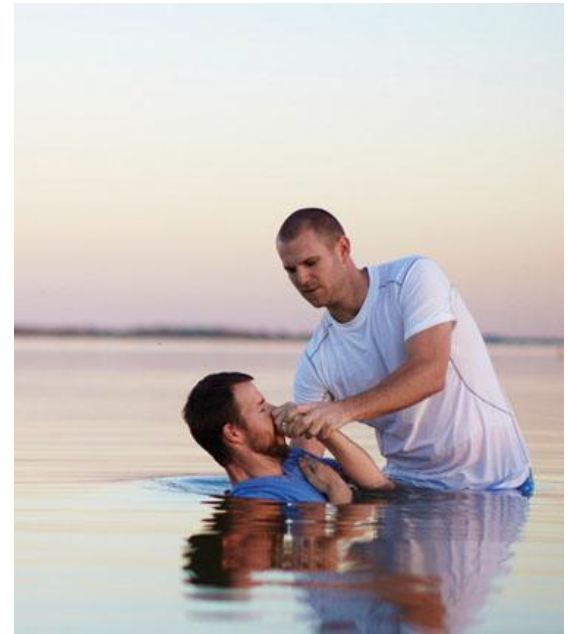


The Church

- The term “church” usually refers to local congregations, each of which is autonomous, whose members are to be baptized believers and whose officers are pastors and deacons.
- Churches may form associations or conventions for cooperative purposes, especially missions and education.

Sacraments

- Baptism is immersion of believers only as a symbol of their faith in Christ.
- The Lord's Supper is a symbolic memorial of Christ's death and anticipation of his return.



Other Beliefs and Practices

- Most Baptist bodies emphasize evangelism and missions.
- Church and state are to be separate.



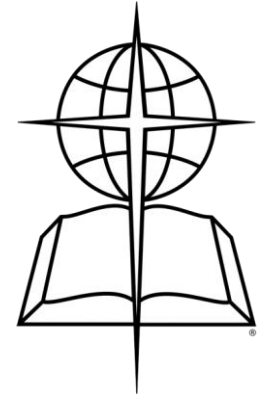
Other Beliefs and Practices

- Some Baptist denominations, such as Free-Will Baptists, are Arminian.
- Others, such as the Southern Baptist Convention, include both Calvinists and non-Calvinists.



Major Divisions and Trends

- Southern Baptist, a conservative body, are the largest Protestant denomination in the USA (15 million).
- Mainline churches:
 - American Baptists (1.5 million)
 - National Baptists (5–8 million)



Southern Baptist
Convention



Churches of Christ

Menu

1801: Cane Ridge
Revival

Churches of Christ

1801

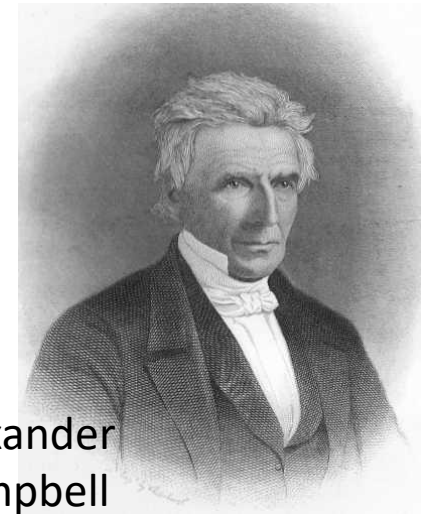
Baptists

Founded

- 1801: Barton Stone holds his Cane Ridge Revival in Kentucky.
- 1832: Stone's Christians unite with Thomas and Alexander Campbell's Disciples of Christ.
- They have different beliefs in some areas.



Barton
Stone



Alexander
Campbell

Adherents

- 5–6 million worldwide
- 3.5 million USA



Scripture

- “Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent.”
- Churches of Christ view Scripture as the inerrant word of God.
- Disciples of Christ generally view Scripture as witness to Christ but fallible.
- The standard Protestant canon is accepted.

God

- The one Creator and Lord of all.
- The creeds are rejected, but most conservatives accept the idea of the Trinity.

Jesus

- The Son of God
- Fully God and fully human
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary
- Died on the Cross for our sins
- Rose bodily from the grave
- Ascended into heaven
- Will come again in glory to judge us all



Salvation

- Churches of Christ:
 - A person must hear the gospel, believe in Christ, repent, confess Christ, be baptized, and persevere in holiness to be saved.
- Disciples of Christ:
 - God saves human beings (possibly all) by his grace, to which we respond in faith.



After Death

- Churches of Christ:
 - Believers immediately go to be with Christ and at his return are raised to immortality.
 - The wicked will suffer eternally in hell.
- Disciples of Christ:
 - Most believe in personal immortality but not hell.

The Church

- Churches of Christ:
 - The church is the assembly of those who have responded rightly to the gospel.
 - It must be called only by the name of Christ.
 - Only such churches are part of the restoration of true Christianity.
 - Each local church is autonomous and calls its own pastors.

The Church

- Disciples of Christ:
 - Similar form of church government to that of the Churches of Christ, but are **ecumenical**, and thus do not claim to be the sole restoration of true Christianity.

Key Term

Ecumenical

- Literally, “of the world.”
- (1) Representing the Christian church before the schism between the Eastern and Western churches; especially, the creeds and councils of the first millennium.
- (2) Seeking to foster institutional cooperation or even unity among all Christian church bodies (or at least among some).

Sacraments

- Baptism is immersion of believers only, as the initial act of obedience to the gospel.
- Many Churches of Christ recognize baptism in their own churches only as valid.
- The Lord's Supper is a symbolic memorial.



Other Beliefs and Practices

- Many but not all Churches of Christ forbid the use of instrumental music in worship.
- International Churches of Christ teaches that its members alone are saved and is widely reported to strongly influence its members.

Divisions and Trends

- Churches of Christ are conservative, some militantly and others not (about 2 million).
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is the mainline church body (about 1 million).



Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

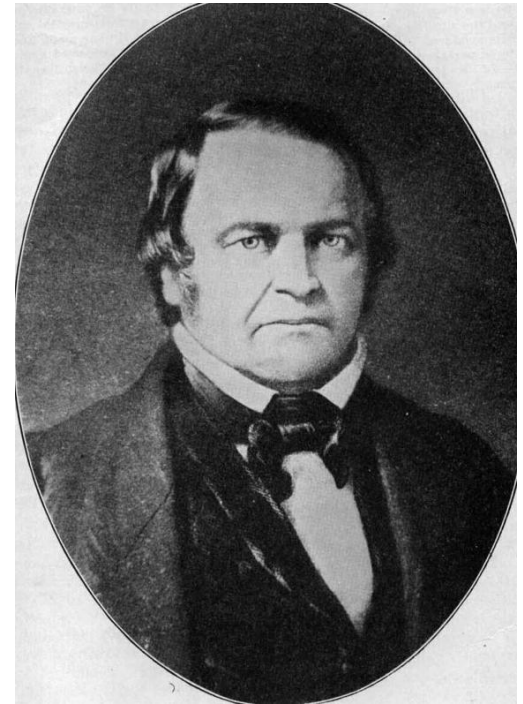
Adventist Churches

Menu

ROSE

Founded

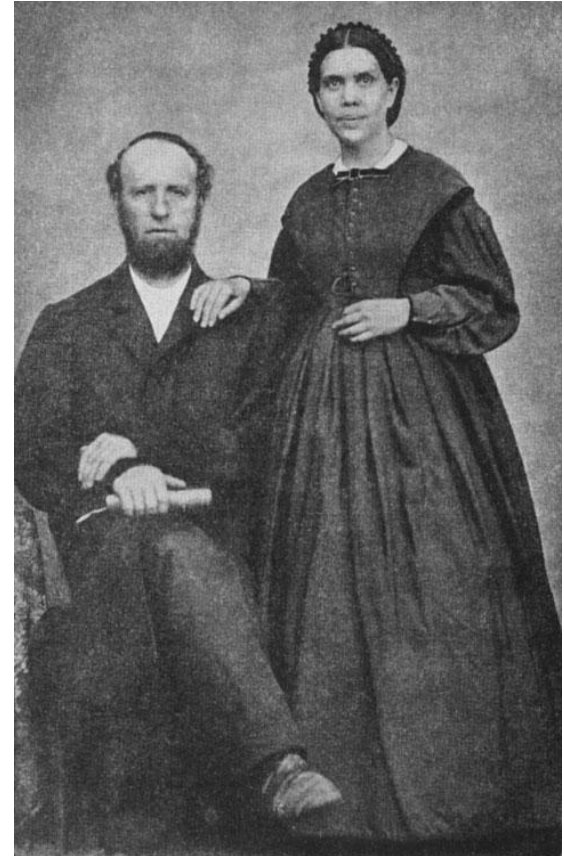
- 1844: William Miller's prediction that Christ's "advent" (return) would occur in 1844 failed.
- It was later interpreted as a heavenly event, not as an actual return.



William Miller

Founded

- 1863: Seventh-day Adventist Church is organized by James and Ellen G. White and Joseph Bates.



James and Ellen G. White

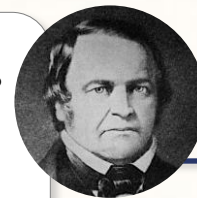
Churches of Christ

Adventist Churches

1863: Seventh-day Adventist Church

1844

1844: William Miller's prediction of Christ's advent (return)



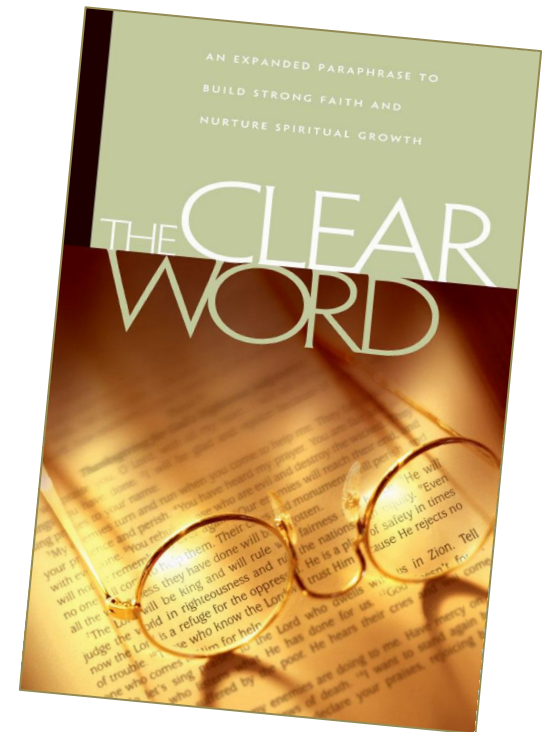
Baptists

Adherents

- 17–18 million worldwide
- 1 million USA

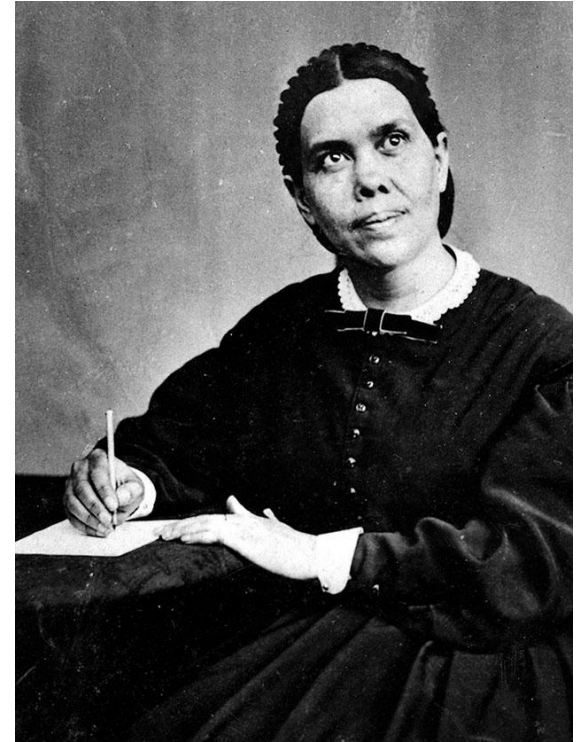
Scripture

- Scripture is inspired and without error, the final, totally trustworthy rule of faith.
- The standard Protestant canon is accepted.
- *The Clear Word* paraphrase is favored.



Scripture

- Ellen G. White, an early Seventh-day Adventist leader, was a prophet.
- Her writings are a “continuing and authoritative source of truth.”



Ellen G. White

God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, “a unity of three co-eternal Persons” (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

Jesus

- The eternal Son incarnate
- Fully God and fully human
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary
- Died on the cross for our sins
- Rose bodily from the grave
- Ascended into heaven
- Will come again in glory to judge us all



Salvation

- To be saved, we repent, believe in Christ as Example (in his life) and Substitute (by his death).
- By grace are made right with God and sanctified and empowered by the Spirit to live in obedience to God's commandments.



Salvation

- Those found obedient at the end will be saved.



After Death

- Death for all people is an unconscious state.
- At Christ's return the righteous will be raised for life in heaven.
- After a Millennium, the wicked will be raised only to be annihilated.
- The righteous will live forever on a new earth.

The Church

- The universal church includes all who believe in Christ.
- The last days are a time of apostasy during which a remnant (the Seventh-day Adventist Church) keeps God's commandments faithfully.



The Church

- The General Conference, composed of delegates from regional “union missions,” governs the whole church.

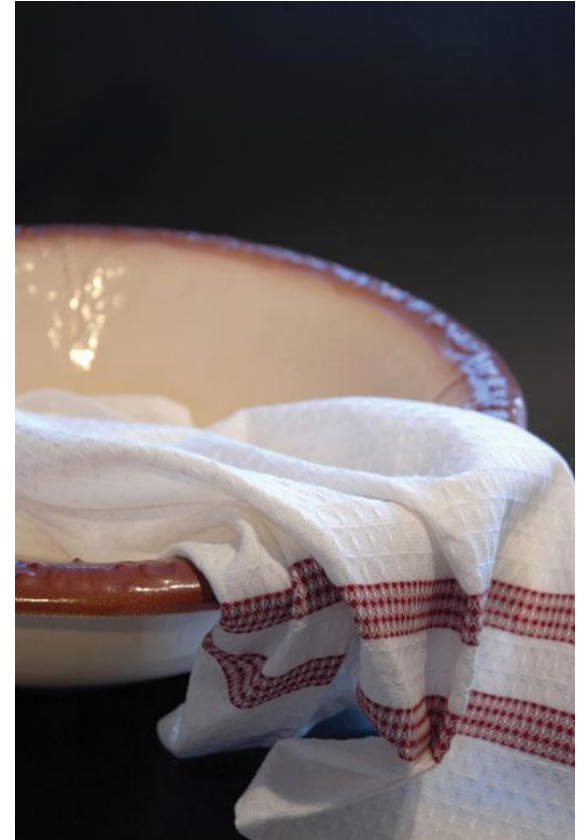


Sacraments

- Baptism is by immersion and is contingent upon affirmation both of faith in Jesus and Adventist doctrines.
- Baptism is into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Sacraments

- The Lord's Supper is a symbolic memorial of Christ's death, is practiced quarterly, and follows foot-washing.



Other Beliefs and Practices

- In 1844 Christ began the “Investigative Judgment,” a work in heaven of determining who among the dead and living are true, loyal believers obeying God’s law.

Other Beliefs and Practices

- Rest and worship on Saturday is an essential element of that obedience.
- When the Judgment work is done, Christ will return.



Divisions and Trends

- Seventh-day Adventist Church is by far the largest body: 17.5 million worldwide; 1 million USA.
- Most of the smaller offshoots reject the Trinity and other historic Christian doctrines.



Pentecostal Churches

Menu

Founded

- 1901: Charles Fox Parham's Kansas Bethel Bible College students speak in tongues.

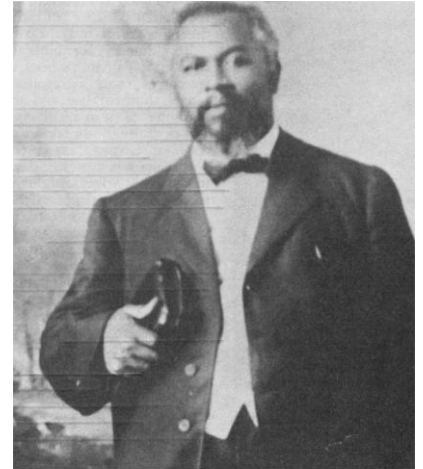


Charles Fox Parham

Pentecostal Churches

Founded

- 1906: The Azusa Street revival—led by William J. Seymour in Los Angeles—launches the Pentecostal movement.
- 1914: Assemblies of God organize.



William J.
Seymour



Azusa Street Mission

Methodists

1901: Bible students in
Kansas speak in tongues



1906: Azusa Street
Revival begins with
William Seymour

1901

Pentecostals

1886: Church of God (TN)

1907: Pentecostal Assemblies

1914: Assemblies of God

1927: Foursquare Gospel

Charismatic:

1965: Calvary Chapel

1983: Vineyard Ministries

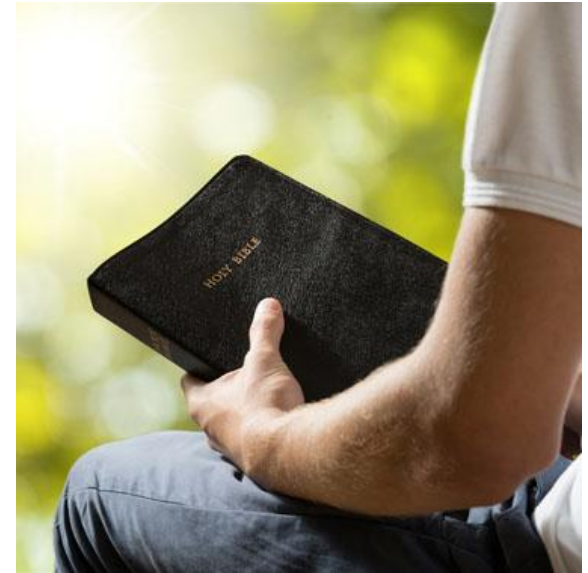
Adherents

- 250–500 million worldwide (estimates vary)
- 13 million USA



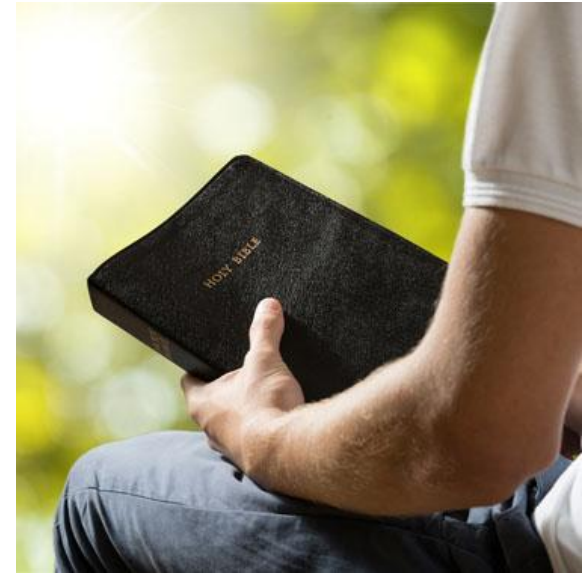
Scripture

- Scripture is inspired and without error, the final, totally trustworthy rule of faith.
- The standard Protestant canon is accepted.



Scripture

- Some church bodies view certain leaders as prophets with authoritative messages that are to be confirmed from Scripture.

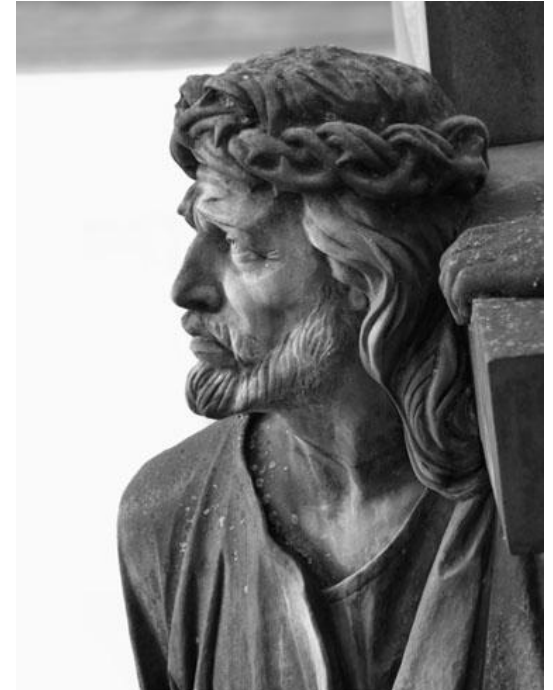


God

- The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

Jesus

- The eternal Son incarnate
- Fully God and fully human
- Conceived and born of the Virgin Mary
- Died on the Cross for our sins
- Rose bodily from the grave
- Ascended into heaven
- Will come again in glory to judge us all

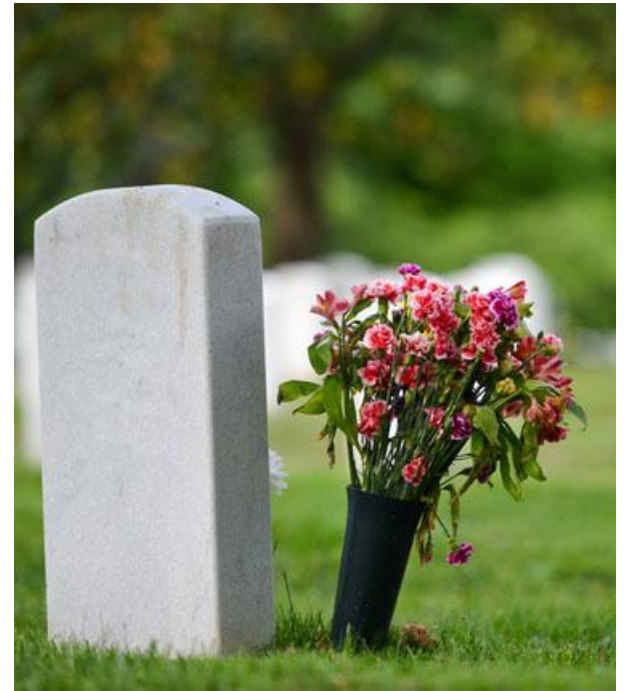


Salvation

- We are saved by God's grace, by Christ's death for our sins, through repentance and faith in Christ alone, resulting in our being born again to new life in the Spirit, as evidenced by a life of holiness.

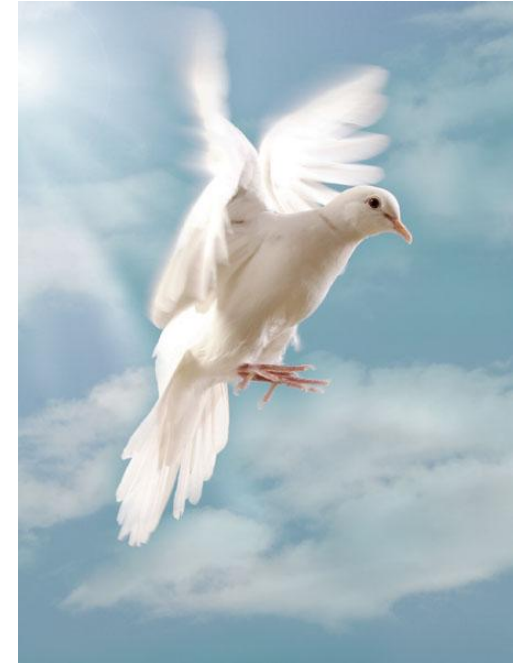
After Death

- The souls of believers upon dying go immediately to be with Christ, and at Christ's return their bodies are raised to immortal, eternal life.
- The wicked will suffer eternal punishment in hell.



The Church

- The church is the body of Christ:
 - in which the Holy Spirit dwells,
 - which meets to worship God,
 - and which is the agency for bringing the gospel of salvation to the whole world.
- Most church bodies practice a form of church government similar to Baptists.



Sacraments

- Baptism is immersion of believers only, as a symbol of their faith in Christ.
- The Lord's Supper is a symbolic memorial of Christ's death and anticipation of his return.



Other Beliefs and Practices

- Pentecostals in the strict sense view speaking in tongues as the initial evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit (a second work of grace akin to entire sanctification in Methodism).
- Charismatics accept tongues but don't view it as the only initial evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Divisions and Trends

- Largest church bodies:
 - Assemblies of God (2.5 million USA, historically white)
 - Church of God in Christ (3 million USA, historically black)
- “Oneness” churches reject the Trinity.



Other Church Bodies

Menu

Calvary Chapel

- Roughly 500,000 mostly in the USA.
- Started by Chuck Smith in California as an independent charismatic church oriented to youth.
- Staunchly evangelical.



Christian and Missionary Alliance

- 430,000 in the USA
- 6 million worldwide
- Founded by A. B. Simpson, a faith-healing evangelist of the late 19th-century.
- Evangelical denomination in the **Holiness** tradition, emphasizing personal piety and evangelism.



Key Term

Holiness

- When capitalized *Holiness* refers to the Christian tradition, stemming from John Wesley, which believes that Christians need a distinct work or effect of God's grace in their lives that makes them personally holy and ready for Christian love and service.
- Or, any of the several denominations in that tradition, including Christian and Missionary Alliance, Nazarenes, and the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army

- 450,000 in the USA
- A Holiness church was founded in 1878 by William and Catherine Booth.
- William was a former Methodist preacher.
- Best known for its ministries to the poor.



Catherine Booth



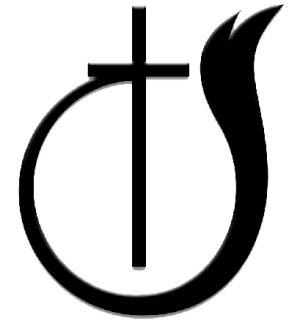
Church of the Nazarene

- 650,000 in the USA
- 2.2 million worldwide
- A Holiness church body founded in Texas in 1908.



Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee)

- 1 million in the USA
- 7 million members worldwide and growing rapidly
- Largest of the Pentecostal “Church of God” bodies.



Evangelical Covenant Church/Evangelical Free Church of America

- Two evangelical denominations in the USA with origins in the Free-Church tradition of Scandinavia, which broke from the national Lutheran church bodies.
- ECC: 100,000 USA
- EFCA: 350,000 USA



Evangelical Covenant Church



EFCA

International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

- Over 350,000 in the USA
- 4–8 million worldwide
- A Pentecostal church body founded by Aimee Semple McPherson, one of America's most well-known women evangelists.
- Emphasizes physical as well as spiritual healing.



Aimee Semple
McPherson



Vineyard Ministries International



- Perhaps 190,000 in the USA
- 1,500 churches worldwide
- Charismatic church body that started in 1974 with a single church in Southern California.
- In 1982, a Calvary Chapel—headed by John Wimber whose ministry focused on praying for signs and wonders—became a Vineyard, after which Vineyard Ministries International (1983) began growing rapidly throughout the world.

Denominations Comparison PowerPoint®

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Denominations Comparison is also available as a fold-out pamphlet and a wall chart poster.

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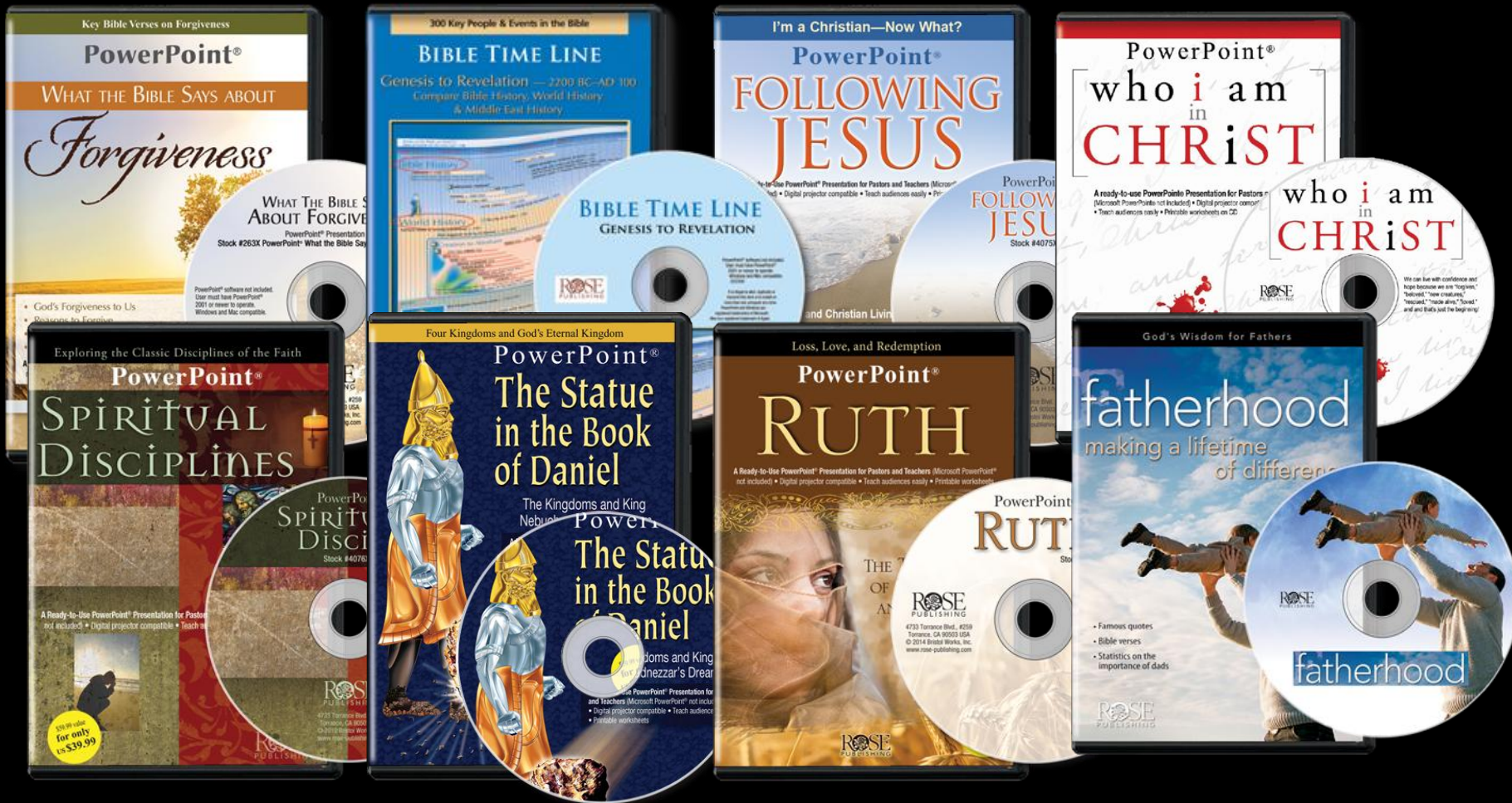
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