

# DENOMINATIONS COMPARISON



Liturgical Churches In order by date

	Catholic Church	Orthodox Churches	Lutheran Churches
<b>Founder and Date</b>	Catholics consider Jesus' disciple Peter (died ca. AD 66) the first pope; Gregory the Great (pope, 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.	330: Emperor Constantine renamed the city of Byzantium "Constantinople," which became the city of the leading patriarch in the "Great Schism" of 1054.	1517: Martin Luther's "95 Theses" (challenges to Catholic teaching) usually mark the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. 1530: The Augsburg Confession is the first formal Lutheran statement of faith.
<b>Adherents in 2000</b>	About 1 billion worldwide; 62 million, USA	About 225 million worldwide; 3-5 million, USA	About 60 million worldwide (all branches; see below); over 8 million, USA
<b>Scripture</b>	The Scriptures teach without error the truth needed for our salvation. Scripture must be interpreted within the Tradition of the Church. The canon includes 46 books for the Old Testament including deuterocanonical books (the Apocrypha) and 27 books for the New Testament.	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. The canon includes 49 Old Testament books (the Catholic Bible plus three more) and the 27 New Testament books.	Scripture alone is the authoritative witness to the gospel (some parts more directly or fully than others). Conservatives view Scripture as inerrant. The standard Protestant canon of 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books is accepted.
<b>God</b>	The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).	The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).	The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
<b>Jesus</b>	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, and will come again in glory to judge us all.	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, and will come again in glory to judge us all.	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, and will come again in glory to judge us all.
<b>Salvation</b>	Christ died as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins; God by his grace infuses a supernatural gift of faith in those who are baptized, which is maintained by doing works of love and receiving Penance and the Eucharist.	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.	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.
<b>Afterlife</b>	The souls of the faithful go to heaven either immediately or, if imperfectly purified in this life, after purgatory. The souls of the wicked at death are immediately consigned to eternal punishment in hell.	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 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.
<b>The Church</b>	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. It is united ( <i>one</i> ) in a sacred ( <i>holy</i> ) worldwide ( <i>catholic</i> ) community through the succession of bishops whose ordination goes back to the apostles ( <i>apostolic</i> ); Christians not in communion with the Catholic Church are called "separated brethren."	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. It is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic, with churches organized nationally (Armenian, Greek, Russian, and so forth) with its bishops under the leadership of patriarchs (the pope being recognized as one of several), of which that of Constantinople has primacy of honor.	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. All ministers are pastors; some serve as bishops. Historically, apostolic succession has been rejected.
<b>Sacraments</b>	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).	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).	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).
<b>Other Beliefs and Practices</b>	Mary was conceived by her mother immaculately (free of original sin), remained a virgin perpetually, and was assumed bodily into heaven. 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).	Mary conceived Jesus virginally. She remained a virgin perpetually, and (in tradition, not dogma) was assumed bodily into heaven. Icons (images of Christ, Mary, or the saints) are objects of veneration through which God is to be worshiped.	The church's liturgy is similar to the Episcopal. Conservative Lutherans generally affirm that God chooses who will be saved before they believe. In 2009 the ELCA opened the ministry to gay and lesbian pastors in committed relationships.
<b>Divisions and Trends</b>	About one-fourth of Catholics are doctrinally conservative. Many priests and members tend to accept liberal, pluralist beliefs contrary to church teaching.	A significant proportion are doctrinally conservative. Most Orthodox bodies are members of the World Council of Churches, whose liberal leanings have long caused concern.	The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the mainline church. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is doctrinally conservative.

Liturgical Churches In order by date

	Anglican Churches	Presbyterian Churches	Methodist Churches
<b>Founder and Date</b>	1534: King Henry VIII was declared head of the Church of England. 1549: Thomas Cranmer produced the first Book of Common Prayer.	1536: John Calvin writes Institutes of the Christian Religion. 1643-49: Westminster Standards define Presbyterian doctrine. 1789: Presbyterian Church (USA) first organized (see below).	1738: Conversion of John and Charles Wesley, already devout Anglican ministers, sparks Great Awakening. 1784: USA Methodists form separate church body.
<b>Adherents in 2000</b>	Some 45-75 million worldwide; 2.3 million, USA	Some 40-48 million worldwide; 3-4 million, USA	Some 20-40 million worldwide; 12 million or more, USA
<b>Scripture</b>	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).	Historic view: Scripture is inspired and infallible, the sole, final rule of faith. 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.	Historic 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.
<b>God</b>	The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).	The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).	The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
<b>Jesus</b>	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, and will come again in glory to judge us all.	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, and will come again in glory to judge us all.	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, and will come again in glory to judge us all.
<b>Salvation</b>	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.	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.	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.
<b>Afterlife</b>	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 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 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.
<b>The Church</b>	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. 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.	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. Congregations choose elders to govern them. Regional groups of elders (presbyteries) meet in denomination-wide General Assemblies.	The church is the body of Christ, represented by visible church institutions. Bishops oversee regions and appoint pastors. In the United Methodist Church, clergy and laity meet together in a national "General Conference" every four years. All pastors are itinerant, meaning they move from one church to the next as directed by the bishop (on average once every four years).
<b>Sacraments</b>	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.	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.	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.
<b>Other Beliefs and Practices</b>	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. 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.	Conservatives affirm the "five points of Calvinism": humans are so sinful that they cannot initiate return to God; God chooses who will be saved; Christ died specifically to save those whom God chose; God infallibly draws to Christ those whom he chooses; they will never fall away.	"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, i.e., they disagree with all five points of Calvinism.
<b>Divisions and Trends</b>	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.	The Presbyterian Church (USA), or PCUSA, is the mainline church. The Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) is the largest doctrinally conservative church body.	United Methodist Church (8.5 million) and the African Methodist Episcopal church bodies (about 4 million) are mainline churches. The Free Methodists are a small conservative body.

Non-Liturgical Churches In order by date

	Anabaptist Churches	Congregational Churches	Baptist Churches
<b>Founder and Date</b>	1525: Protestants in Zurich begin believer's baptism. 1537: Menno Simons begins leading Mennonite movement. 1682: A Quaker, William Penn, founds Pennsylvania.	1607: Members of a house church in England, illegal at that time, who were forced into exile. 1620: Congregationalists called Pilgrims sail on Mayflower to Plymouth (now in Massachusetts).	1612: John Smythe and other English Puritans form the first Baptist church. 1639: The first Baptist church in America established in Providence, Rhode Island.
<b>Adherents in 2000</b>	Perhaps 2 million worldwide; Roughly 600,000, USA.	Over 2 million worldwide; About 2 million, USA.	100 million worldwide (including families); 25-30 million, USA.
<b>Scripture</b>	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.	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. (UCC, see below.) The Bible and creeds are seen as "testimonies of faith, not tests of faith." The standard Protestant canon is accepted.	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.)
<b>God</b>	The one Creator and Lord of all, revealed in Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Most affirm the Trinity in some way.	The Eternal Spirit who calls the worlds into being and is made known in the man Jesus.	The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
<b>Jesus</b>	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.	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.)	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, and will come again in glory to judge us all.
<b>Salvation</b>	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.	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.	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.
<b>Afterlife</b>	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).	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 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.
<b>The Church</b>	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. No one system of church government is recognized; leadership is to be characterized by humble service and is primarily but not exclusively local.	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 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.	The church (universal) is the body of Christ, which consists of the redeemed throughout history. 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.
<b>Sacraments</b>	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.	Congregations may practice infant baptism or believer's baptism or both. Sacraments are symbols of spiritual realities.	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.
<b>Other Beliefs and Practices</b>	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.	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.	Most Baptist bodies emphasize evangelism and missions. Church and state are to be separate. Baptists include both Calvinists (dominant in the Southern Baptist Convention) and Arminians (dominant in mainline bodies and the Free-Will Baptist bodies).
<b>Divisions and Trends</b>	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.	United Church of Christ (1.5 million) is staunchly liberal. The National Assn. of Cong. Christian Churches (110,000) is a mainline body. The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (38,000) is evangelical.	Southern Baptist (15 million), a conservative body, are the largest Protestant denomination in the USA. American Baptists (1.5 million) and the National Baptists (5-8 million) are mainline churches.

Non-Liturgical Churches In order by date

	Churches of Christ	Adventist Churches	Pentecostal Churches
<b>Founder and Date</b>	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.	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. 1863: Seventh-day Adventist Church is organized.	1901: Charles Fox Parham's Kansas Bethel Bible College students speak in tongues. 1906: The Azusa Street revival (led by William J. Seymour in Los Angeles) launches Pentecostal movement. 1914: Assemblies of God organize.
<b>Adherents in 2000</b>	Perhaps 5-6 million worldwide; 3-4 million, USA.	Over 18 million worldwide (plus members of much smaller bodies); over 1 million USA.	500 million worldwide (estimates vary); roughly 10 million, USA.
<b>Scripture</b>	"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.	Scripture is inspired and without error, the final, totally trustworthy rule of faith. The standard Protestant canon is accepted; <i>The Clear Word</i> paraphrase is favored. Ellen G. White, an early Seventh-day Adventist leader, was a prophet; her writings are a "continuing and authoritative source of truth."	Scripture is inspired and without error, the final, totally trustworthy rule of faith. The standard Protestant canon is accepted. Some church bodies view certain leaders as prophets with authoritative messages that are to be confirmed from Scripture.
<b>God</b>	The one Creator and Lord of all. The creeds are rejected, but most conservatives accept the idea of the Trinity.	The one Creator and Lord of all, "a unity of three co-eternal Persons" (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).	The one Creator and Lord of all, existing eternally as the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
<b>Jesus</b>	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, and will come again in glory to judge us all.	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, and will come again in glory to judge us all.	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, and will come again in glory to judge us all.
<b>Salvation</b>	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.	To be saved, we repent, believe in Christ as Example (in his life) and Substitute (by his death), and so by grace are made right with God and sanctified and empowered by the Spirit to live in obedience to God's commandments. Those found obedient at the end will be saved.	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.
<b>Afterlife</b>	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: Most believe in personal immortality but not hell.	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 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.
<b>The Church</b>	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. Disciples of Christ have a similar form of church government but are ecumenical, and thus do not claim to be the sole restoration of true Christianity.	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 General Conference, composed of delegates from regional "union missions," governs the whole 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.
<b>Sacraments</b>	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.	Baptism is by immersion, contingent upon affirmation of faith in Jesus and Adventist doctrines, and is into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic memorial of Christ's death, practiced quarterly, follows foot-washing.	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.
<b>Other Beliefs and Practices</b>	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.	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. Rest and worship on Saturday is an essential element of that obedience. When the Judgment work is done, Christ will return.	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.
<b>Divisions and Trends</b>	Churches of Christ (about 2 million) are conservative, some militantly and others not. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (about 1 million) is the mainline church body.	The Seventh-day Adventist Church by far the largest body, followed by SDA Reform Movement. Most of the smaller offshoots reject the Trinity and other historic Christian doctrines.	Assemblies of God (2.5 million USA, historically white) and Church of God in Christ (3 million USA, historically black) are the largest church bodies. "Oneness" churches reject the Trinity.

# 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

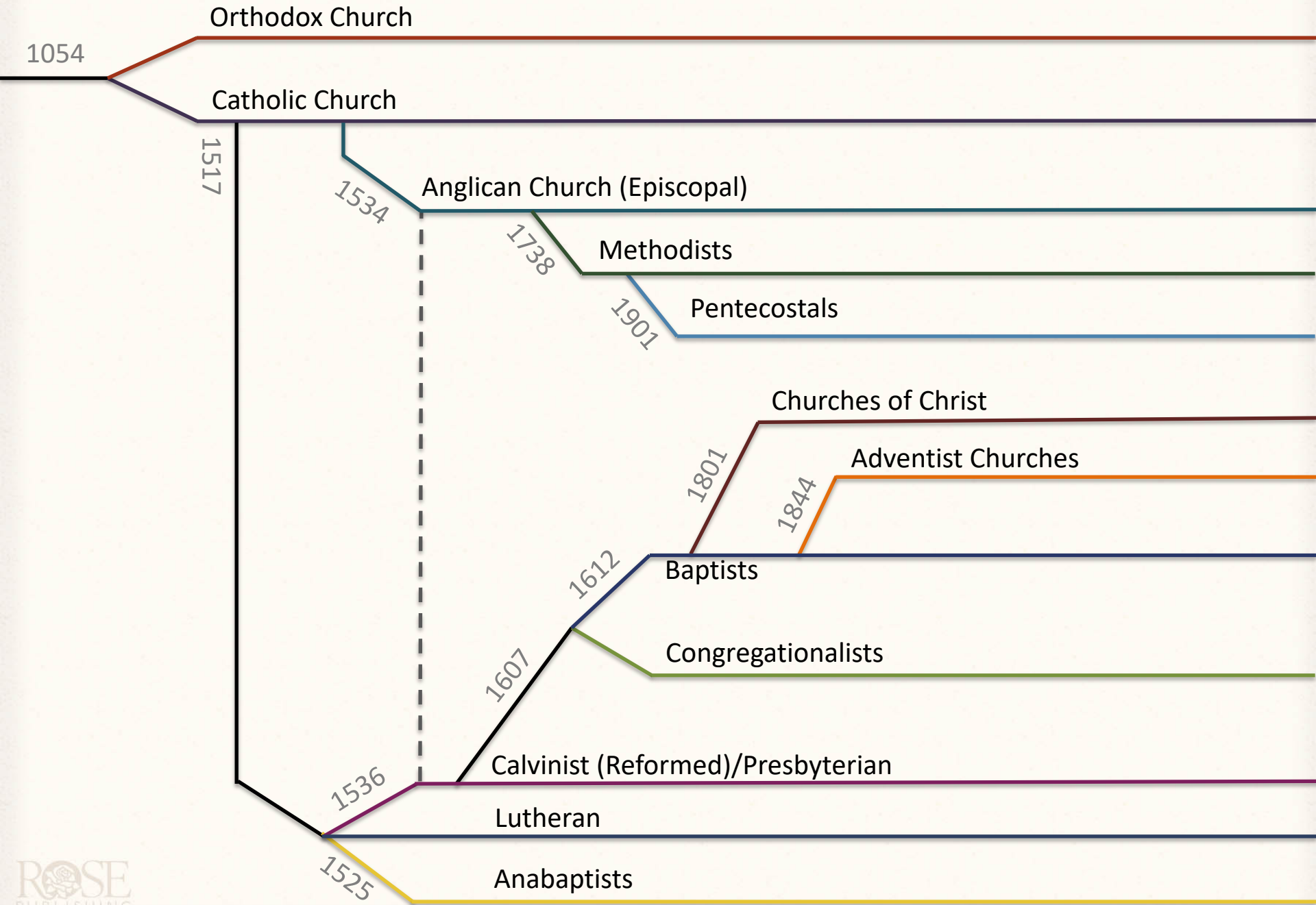
1885: Evangelical Covenant

1950: Evangelical Free

## Anabaptists

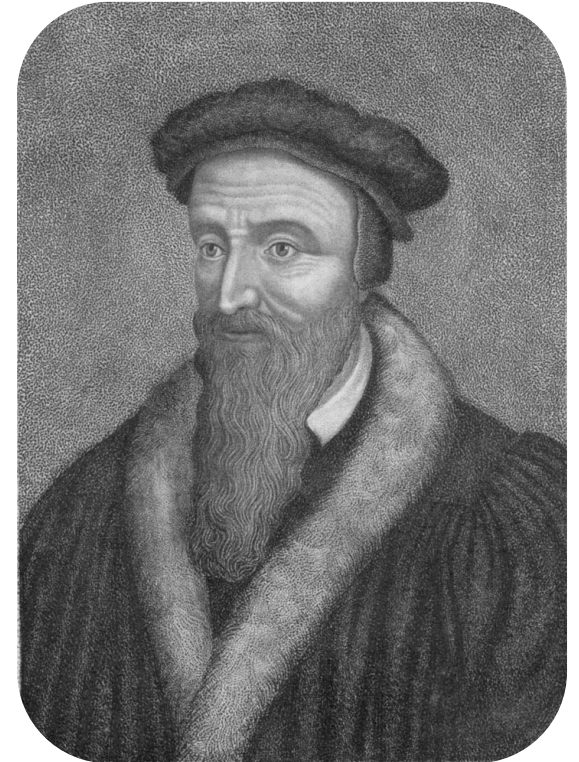
1725: Mennonite USA

# FAMILY TREE OF DENOMINATIONS



## 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

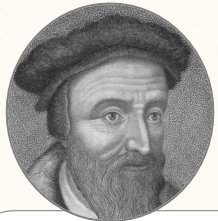
Catholic Church

Anglican Church (Episcopal)

Calvinist (Reformed)

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Lutheran Church



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1536

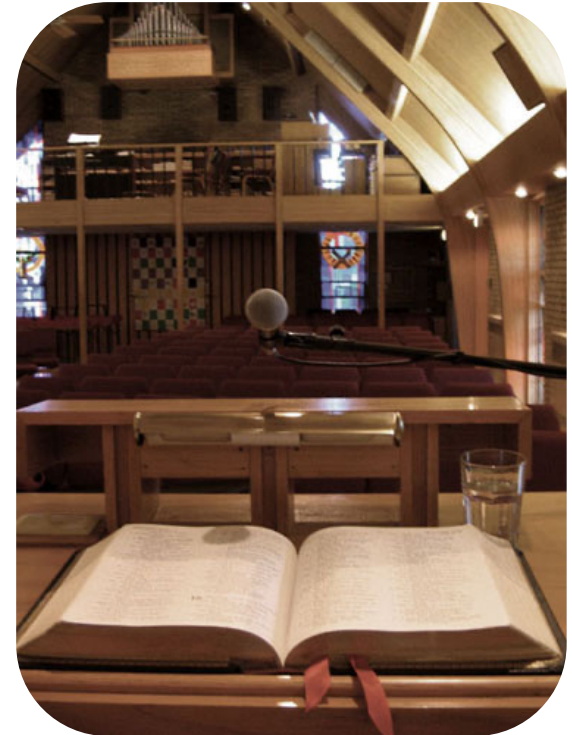
## Adherents

- 40–50 million worldwide
- 2 million USA



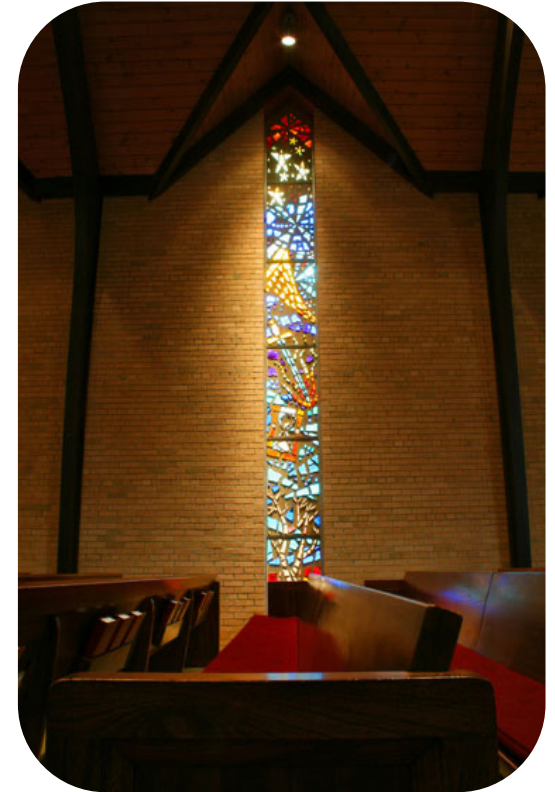
## Scripture

- 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.



## 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.



T  
Total Depravity

U  
Unconditional Election

L  
Limited Atonement

I  
Irresistible Grace

P  
Perseverance of the Saints



## 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**



## 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  
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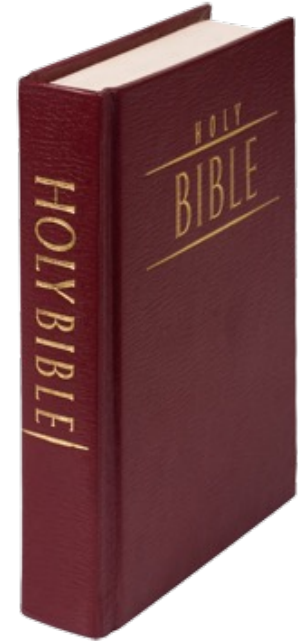
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- Jesus is really present, and his body and blood are spiritually present, to believers in the Lord's Supper.



## 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).

## 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

## Adherents

- 2 million worldwide
- 500,000 USA



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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.

## 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.



## 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

## 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

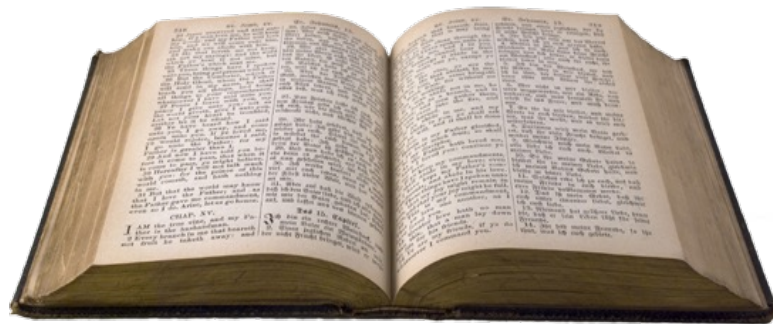
## **Adherents**

- 2.5 million worldwide
- 1 million USA



## 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.



# 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

## 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

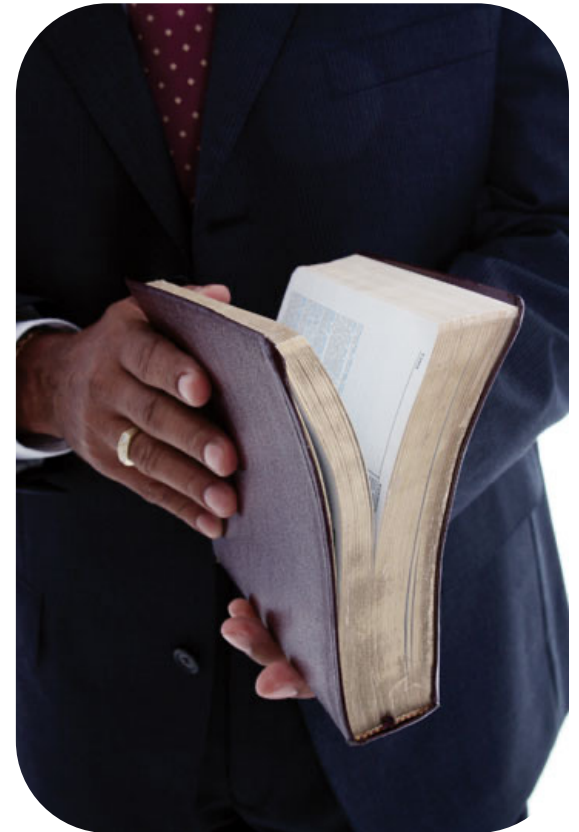
# Key Term

## **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.

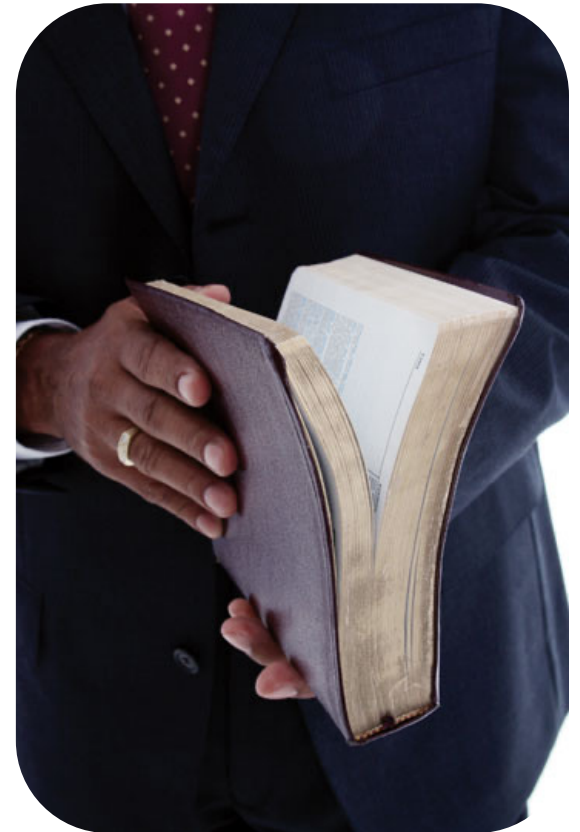
## Adherents

- 100 million worldwide
- 33 million USA



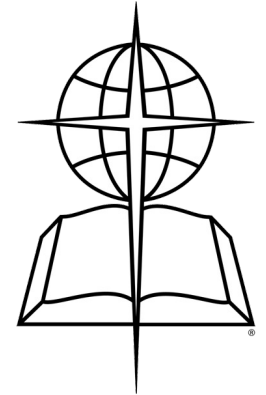
## Scripture

- 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.



## 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



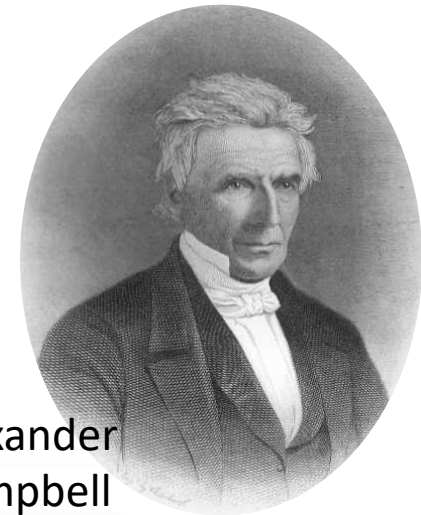


## Founded

- 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.

## 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)

## Founded

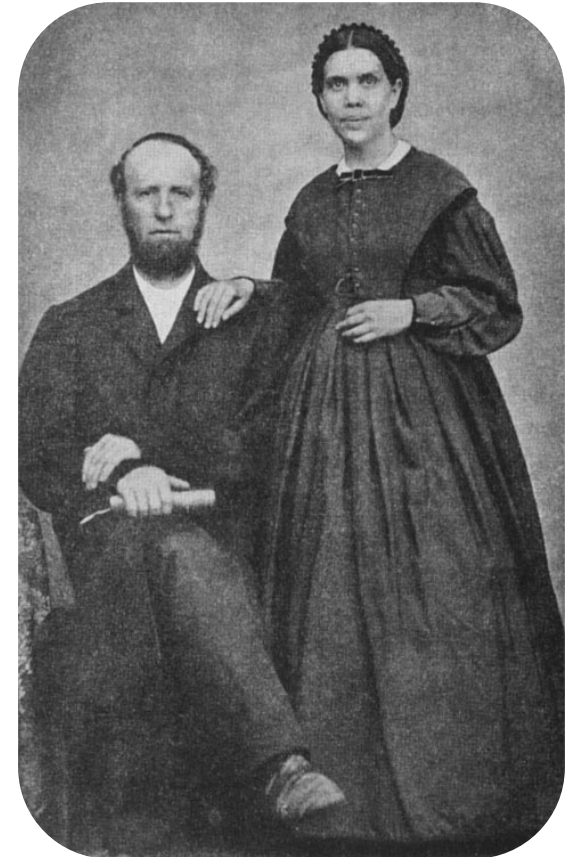
- 1844: William Miller's prediction that Christ's "advent" (return) would occur in 1844 failed.
- It was later interpreted as a heavenly event, not as an actual return.



William Miller

## Founded

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



James and Ellen G. White



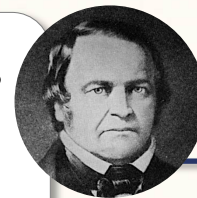
## Churches of Christ

### 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

## 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.



## Founded

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

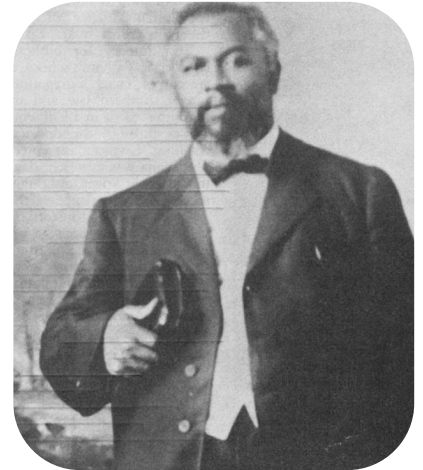


Charles Fox Parham

# 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.



## **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.



## 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 19<sup>th</sup>-century.
- Evangelical denomination in the **Holiness** tradition, emphasizing personal piety and evangelism.



## Salvation Army

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



Catherine Booth

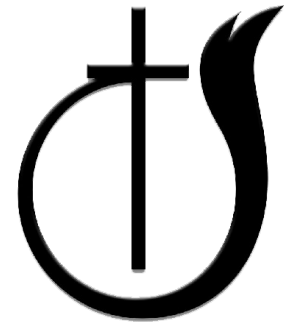
## **Church of the Nazarene**

- 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.