

Christianity's Family Tree

What Other Christians
Believe And Why
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Introduction

- In this book we will learn about many division of Christianity. We will learn about church history, theology and Christian spirituality, seeing what it is that makes each branch of our Christian family unique. The aim of the book is not to critique, compare or contrast. Instead the authors goal is to help us learn from our brothers and sisters of other denominations so that our faith might be enriched and that we might be more authentic and effective disciples of Jesus Christ

Quick Facts about Christianity:

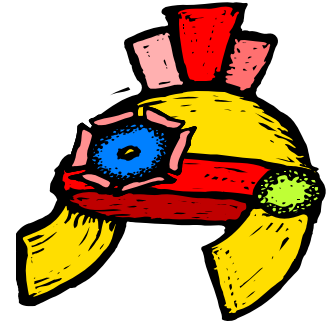
- Date founded: c. 33 AD
- Place founded: Palestine
- Founder: Jesus of Nazareth, a Jewish carpenter
- Followers: 2 billion {1}
- Size rank: largest world religion
- Main location: Europe, North America, South America
- Major sects (denominations):
 - Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant

Followers of Christ from Judaism to Judeo Christianity

- Judaism
- Judeo Christianity
 - Followers of Christ were Nazarenes; followers of Jesus of Naz.; followers of "the way" ; "Christians," followers of Jesus Christ

East Side!

Who's in Power at this time ??



West Side!

For the next couple of centuries:

- Arguments over Theology and Practices led to a meeting in 325AD
- Out of that meeting came a document entitled the Nicene Creed. (pg.20)
- But even though a uniting attempt was made there were other divisions.

Other Divisions:

- Seventh century: Western Christians added three words to the Nicene Creed without consulting the East. Called the “filioque” meaning from the son.
 - The Holy Spirit not only came from the Father but also the Son.
- Papal Authority and Liturgy
- Then in 1054 the theological stuff hit the fan

East Side III

East Side S. West

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- 729 year of era until 1054

East Side S. West

East Side: Orthodox

West Side: Catholics

- Orthodoxy
 - The Word means: “Right Worship” and Right Doctrine”
- Catholic
 - The Word means: Universal

Twin Brother claiming the Eldest Child

- Orthodoxy: Right Worship/ Right Doctrine
- Direct and continuous successors of the apostles
- Claim to preserve the earliest traditions of the Christian faith.

What they Believe:

- Orthodox teaching regarding the human condition is not tied to the doctrine of original sin. What was passed from Adam and Eve is death and all that death brings. Jesus brings life, once life is accepted through Christ.
- Orthodox practice seven Sacraments
- Life Begins at Baptism
- Priest may marry

What they believe cont.

- Scripture:
 - The first five centuries the Holy Spirit was guiding the early church fathers thus making them important interpreters of the scriptures.
 - The Protestant idea of “Sola Scriptura” (Scripture Alone) is unheard of in Orthodox tradition.
 - Reference page 23

The Building is a Must See....

- An Orthodox church is a building whose very purpose is to transport the worshiper into the heavenly realm.
 - Dome
 - Front
 - Etc.
- Liturgy: prayers, praise, chants, Eucharist
 - Incense (smell), bread and wine (tasting and exp. God)

The essence of Faith for the Orthodox

- Is remembering what is true and real even though we cannot see it.

What can be learned from this branch of the Family ??

- Mysteries
- Traditions
- Icons

West Side: Catholics

- Catholics make up the largest group of Christians in the world.
- Once again there were no so called Catholics in the beginning of Christianity.
- End of the first century all roads led to Rome in the Western half of the empire.
- Latin was the preferred Language
- The bishops in Rome became the most powerful and by the 4th century he became known as “Pope” which means Father.

Twin Brother Claiming to be the Eldest also. (Catholics)

- What they believe:
 - Holy Spirit continues to reveal truth and doctrine through the bishops, theologians, and councils of the church.
 - Papal Authority
 - Views of Mary: she herself was immaculately conceived; she was a perpetually a virgin; assumed into heaven at her death (her body not being subject to decay)

Beliefs and Practices

- Worship and practices established based on Old Testament structure:
 - Confessional booths
 - Devotional Practices: praying the stations of the cross. (a way of recalling the story of the passion and the death of Christ)
 - Rosary: Used to recount the stories of Mary and Jesus while offering scriptural words of affirmation and prayer. Hail Mary, taken from the Gospel of Luke

Reverence of the Sacred

- Reference page 38
 - Communion elements
 - Expressions of reverence: Bowing, Standing, sings of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart. “the gospel on my mind, and on my lips and in my heart.
- Power of the Eucharist:
 - The last Passover Jesus said take eat and drink this is my body and blood. The Eucharist is the most important act or culmination of any service. For it is Christ Himself we receive body, blood and soul.
 - This is known as the doctrine of Transubstantiation. In the midst of the pray of the priest the wine and the bread is transformed into the actual blood and body of Christ. Based on John 6

What can we Learn from this branch of the family ??

- Beliefs
- Practices
- Traditions
- More

1517 Luther's Reform

The Protestant Reformation

- Luther's Ninety-Five Thesis, Wittenburg Germany
He challenged the authority of the Pope. And he Church splits again.
- Lutheran, Methodist, Reformed Churches(Presbyterian), Baptist, Pentecostal, Non Denominational (Vineyard etc.) Restorationism (Seven Day Adventist, Church of Christ) Anabaptist, Mennonites Amish.

A Quick Look At Sacred Differences

Orthodoxy	Catholic	Baptist
Baptism	Baptism	Baptism
Chrismation H.S	Reconciliation	
Eucharist	Eucharist	Communion
Confession	Confirmation	
Marriage	Marriage	
Ordination to Priest Hood	Holy Order	
Holy Oil	Anointing of the sick	

Thank you For Hanging IN !!

Any questions/ Comments