June 10, 2018

Denominations Since the Reformation

As Christians in 2018, have you ever wondered where all these different denominations came from?

The Five Protestant Reformations

#1. German Reformation

Martin Luther (1483-1546)
• Famous 95 Thesis was against sale of indulgences.
• Rejected sacramentalism. Affirmed forensic justification (salvation is an act of faith).
• Rejected auricular confession (confession to a priest), saying that biblically people are supposed to confess to their fellow brothers.
• Rejected authority of the pope. He went so far as to say that the primary problem with the RCC is the pope’s desire for opulence and luxury.
• Rejected all sacraments except two: baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
• Rejected ordination of priests (idea of priestly class).
• Followers known as Lutherans

#2. Swiss Reformation

John Calvin (1509-1564)
• Was 8 years old when Luther nailed Ninety-Five Thesis to door.
• Followers developed “Reformed theology” and “Calvinism” (Theodore Beza, John Knox).
• People used to say they were of the “Reformed faith.” Around 20th c. started saying “Calvinists.”
• Helped transform Geneva into “Protestant Rome.”

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)
• Had academic background.
• Brought reformation to hometown of Zurich, Switzerland.
• Calvary Chapels hold his view of Lord’s supper (memorialism—it’s purely symbolic tool for remembering Jesus’ work on cross).
• Held to infant baptism (brings into Covenant Community like circumcision).

#3. Radical Reformation

Anabaptists (1527-)
• Anabaptist = “baptized again” (adults should get baptized again even if done as infant).
• “Radical” because wanted to take reformation even further.
• Rejected infant baptism, link between church and state, Christian participant in war, distrusted external authority; held common ownership of property; emphasized pacifism and non-resistance.
• Were persecuted by German Reformers, Swiss Reformers and Catholics.
• Estimated 5,000 men and women were tortured and executed.

#4. English Reformation

Anglicanism (1559-)
• Pope refused to dissolve marriage of Henry VIII so broke away from Catholic Church.
• Not so much interested in doctrine or theology but a political move.
• Elizabeth I succeeded throne; created national Church of England.
• Mixes of Protestant beliefs with Catholic liturgy.
• 3rd largest Christian church (after Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox)

#5. The “Second” Reformation

Felt too much emphasis on doctrine; spiritual life became primary concern.

Puritanism
• Emphasized spiritual and pastoral application in addition to doctrine.
• John Owen (1618–83); Richard Baxter (1615-91) wrote Reformed Pastor (1656).
• King Charles I repressed the Puritans, and many fled to North America (Plymouth Colony).
• Jonathan Edwards was most significant American Puritan theologian.

Pietism
• Hostile to heavy doctrine/theology.
• Stressed the need for a “living faith.”
• Emphasized personal Bible study and Christian living for everyday life.
• In Germany, Zinzendorf (1700–60) stressed “religion of the heart” based on intimate and personal relationship with Christ.
• Bad: Emphasis on “feeling” over doctrine/theology led to German criticism/liberalism.
• Good: John Wesley stressed idea of a “living faith” in England.

From these Five Protestant Reformations come our denominations we have today.
Quick Look at Modern Denominations

Similarities / Differences

We might not agree on everything but have a lot in common.

Similarities (Essentials)
- Belief in **one God** (God’s unity)
- **Trinity** (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- Full deity and full humanity of Christ.
- Man is **sinner** in need of **salvation** (depravity)
- **Miracles** like the Virgin Birth & Resurrection
- **Salvation by grace/faith** in finished work of Christ
- **Second coming** of Christ
- **Bible** is Word of God

Differences (Non-Essentials)
- Forms of **Church Government** (Congregational, Presbyterian, Episcopal)
- **Women pastors** (Complementarian vs. Egalitarian)
- **Baptism**: Child vs. Adult baptism
- **Charismatic gifts** continue today or ceased?
- Man’s part in salvation (**predestination** vs. **free-will**)
- View of **End Times**
- **Values** (topical vs. expository preaching, seeker sensitive, etc.)
- Style of **Worship** (modern, hymn, no instruments, etc.)

A Look at Some
(From “Denomination Chart,” Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government Type (Church Polity)</th>
<th>Theological Distinctives (Liberal, Conservative, etc.)</th>
<th>Role of Women (Egalitarian, Complementarian)</th>
<th>Baptism (Pedo/Covenant, Credo/Believers)</th>
<th>Other Distinctives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assemblies of God</td>
<td>Congregational</td>
<td>Egalitarian</td>
<td>Credo-Believers</td>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Within US: 12,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>churches, 3.1 million members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvary Chapel</td>
<td>&quot;Moses model&quot;</td>
<td>Complementarian</td>
<td>Credo-Believers</td>
<td>Pre-Mill/Pre-Trib.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian &amp; Missionary Alliance (C&amp;MA)</td>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>Credo-Believers with immersion</td>
<td>Emphasis on healing ministry; Missions-focused; Pre-Millennial eschatology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Within US: 2,000 churches, 430,000 members;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Name</td>
<td>Denomination</td>
<td>Theology</td>
<td>Theology</td>
<td>Theology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical Free Church (EFCA)</td>
<td>Congregational</td>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>Complementarian</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran (ELCA)</td>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>Mixed/Liberal</td>
<td>Egalitarian</td>
<td>Pedo-Covenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foursquare Gospel (International Church of the Foursquare Gospel)</td>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td>Egalitarian</td>
<td>Credo-Believers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutheran Church Missouri Synod</td>
<td>Presbyterian (but Congregational in many functions)</td>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>Complementarian</td>
<td>Both</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (NBC)</td>
<td>Congregational</td>
<td>Mixed Conservative</td>
<td>Either, depending on local congregation</td>
<td>Credo-Believers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)</td>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>Reformed, Conservative</td>
<td>Complementarian</td>
<td>Pedo-Covenantal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian Church in the USA (PCUSA)</td>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>Reformed, Mixed</td>
<td>Egalitarian</td>
<td>Pedo-Covenantal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed Church in America (RCA)</td>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>Reformed, Mixed</td>
<td>Egalitarian</td>
<td>Pedo-Covenantal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
<td>Episcopal</td>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>Egalitarian</td>
<td>Do not Baptize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Baptist (SBC)</td>
<td>Congregational</td>
<td>Mixed/Conservative</td>
<td>Either, depending on local congregation</td>
<td>Credo-Believers with Immersion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist (UMC)</td>
<td>Episcopal</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>Egalitarian</td>
<td>Pedo-Covenantal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vineyard Christian Fellowship</td>
<td>Congregational</td>
<td>Pentecostal; Conservative</td>
<td>Egalitarian</td>
<td>Credo-Believers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Feedback

Please take 1 minute to answer some questions:

- What did you like the most about this class?
- How can this class be improved?
- What class topics would you like covered in the future?

Answer at http://callup.org/feedback

Class Files

All PowerPoints and PDF files for this class can be found at http://callup.org/rome

Bibliography


