



BIBLICAL TRAINING CENTER

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

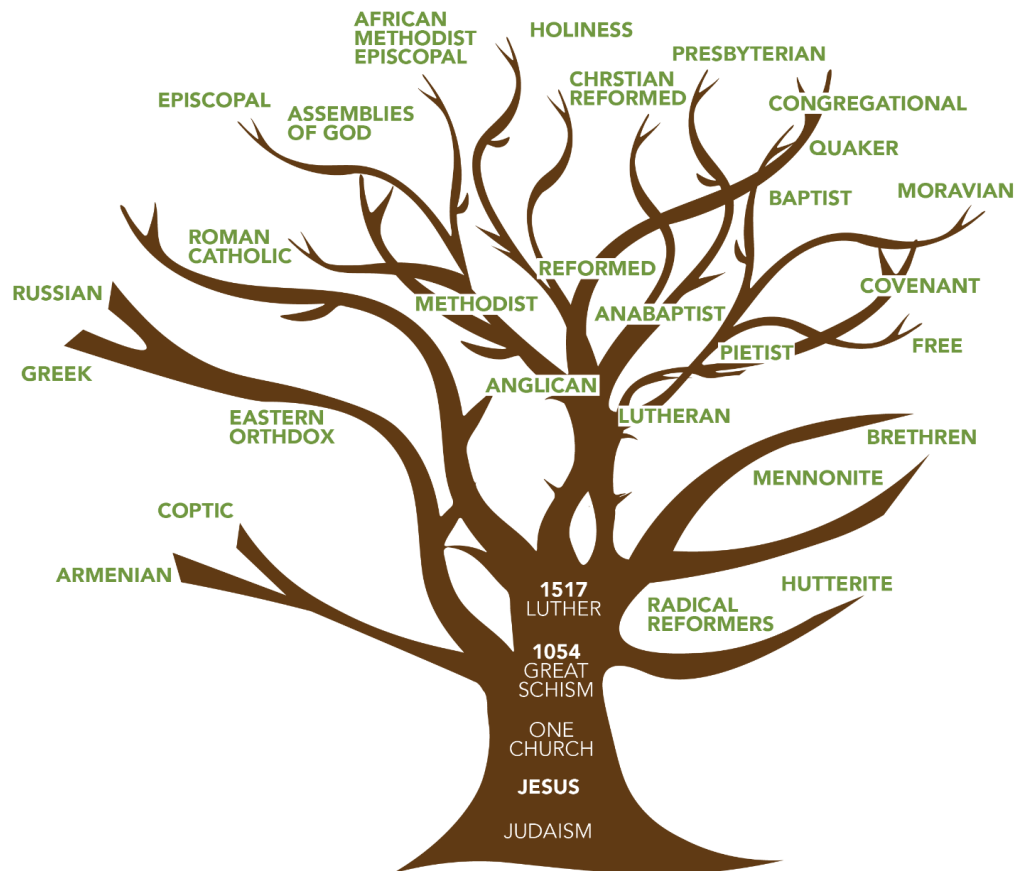
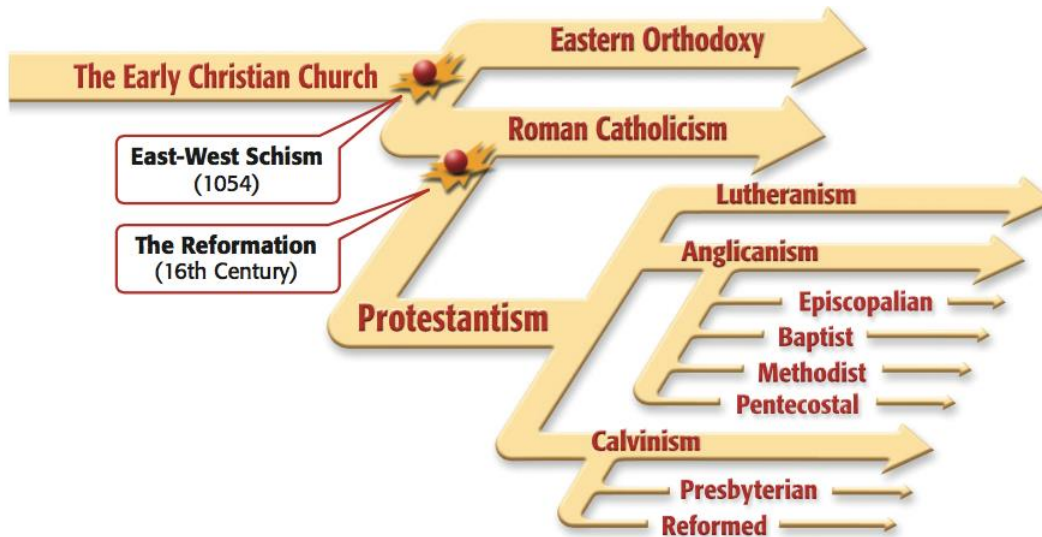
- Emphasized **spiritual and pastoral application** in addition to doctrine.
- John Owen (1618–83); Richard Baxter (1615-91) wrote *Reformed Pastor* (1656).
- King Charles I repressed the **Puritans**, and many fled to **North America** (Plymouth Colony).
- **Jonathan Edwards** was most significant American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

	Government Type (Church Polity)	Theological Distinctives (Liberal, Conservative, etc.)	Role of Women (Egalitarian, Complementarian)	Baptism (Pedo/Covenant, Credo/Believers)	Other Distinctives
Assemblies of God	Congregational	Charismatic	Egalitarian	Credo-Believers	Pentecostal Within US: 12,850 churches, 3.1 million members; worldwide: 67 million members.
Calvary Chapel	"Moses model"	Charismatic	Complementarian	Credo-Believers	Pre-Mill/Pre-Trib.
Christian & Missionary Alliance (C&MA)	Presbyterian	Conservative	Complementarian in U.S.; in Canada women may be ordained.	Credo-Believers with immersion	Emphasis on healing ministry; Missions- focused; Pre-Millennial eschatology. Within US: 2,000 churches, 430,000 members;

Evangelical Free Church (EFCA)	Congregational	Conservative	Complementarian	Both	Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; church planting ~1,500 churches, 371,000 members in US.
Evangelical Lutheran (ELCA)	Presbyterian	Mixed/Liberal	Egalitarian	Pedo-Covenant	In communion w/RCA, PCUSA & UCC ~9,300 churches, 3.7 million baptized members.
Foursquare Gospel [International Church of the Foursquare Gospel]		Pentecostal	Egalitarian	Credo-Believers	Within US: 1620 churches, 243,400 members; worldwide: 66,000 churches, 8 million members.
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod	Presbyterian (but Congregational in many functions)	Conservative	Complementarian	Both	~6140 churches, 2.1 million baptized members.
National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (NBC)	Congregational	Mixed Conservative (Does not prescribe nor exercise administrative or doctrinal control over any of its membership)	Either, depending on local congregation	Credo-Believers	Within US: 9,000 churches, 5 million members; worldwide: 31,000 churches, 7.5 million members.
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)	Presbyterian	Reformed; Conservative	Complementarian	Pedo-Covenantal	Cessationist
Presbyterian Church in the USA (PCUSA)	Presbyterian	Reformed; Mixed	Egalitarian	Pedo-Covenantal	In communion w/RCA, ELCA & UCC; "ecumenical" ~9,800 churches, 1.6-2 million members in US.
Reformed Church in America (RCA)	Presbyterian	Reformed; Mixed	Egalitarian	Pedo-Covenantal	In communion w/ELCA, PCUSA & UCC; the more liberal of the Reformed denominations; "ecumenical" ~850 churches, 240,000 members in US.
Salvation Army	Episcopal	Conservative	Egalitarian	Do not Baptize	Military organization & terminology; hands-on ministry/help & mercy. World: 15,400 churches; 4.5 million volunteers
Southern Baptist (SBC)	Congregational	Mixed/Conservative	Either, depending on local congregation	Credo-Believers with Immersion	Dispensational ~46,500 churches, 15.5 million members in US.
United Methodist (UMC)	Episcopal	Mixed	Egalitarian	Pedo-Covenantal	Wesleyan Within US: 32,400 churches, 7.2 million members; worldwide: 12 million members.
Vineyard Christian Fellowship	Congregational	Pentecostal; Conservative	Egalitarian	Credo-Believers	Roots: Calvary Chapel & John Wimber; Quest for the Radical Middle Within US, 600 churches; 190,000 members; worldwide: 1,500 churches.

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

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