

CHRISTIANITY

Why the differences in Churches?

History of Orthodoxy

- Founder – St. Mark the Apostle (54AD)



- Alexandria becomes the seat of the Patriarch of all Christianity until the Council of Chalcedon.
- St. Mark writes first Gospel.
- St. Athanasius produces the creed in the first ecumenical council in Nicea.
- Church endures more persecutions than any other, yet survived until today totally intact and virtually unchanged from its origins.

First split of churches.

- Council of Chalcedon is called to look at the issue of a new heresy (Monophysitism).
- Monophysitism declared that Christ was of one nature only.
- Leo I, bishop of Rome, rallies other bishops to accuse the Coptic church of being Monophysitic.
- In 431 AD. Coptic bishops, along with Armenian, Syrian and Eritrean walk out of the Council of Chalcedon.

History of Catholicism

- Founder – Leo I (440AD.)



Catholic History

- In 440 AD. Leo I, the bishop of Rome, declares himself the successor of St. Peter.
- He takes on the title of Universal Bishop, a forerunner of papal authority.

Catholic Church declares new beliefs.

- The doctrine of purgatory – 593AD.
- Requirement of Latin – 600AD.
- Veneration of St. Mary – 600AD.
- Decree of celibacy for priests – 1079AD.
- Inquisition of alleged heretics – 1184AD.
- The sale of indulgences – 1190AD.
- The forbidding of Bible reading by lay people – 1215AD.

Second split of churches.

- In 1054AD., the Eastern Church (Greek Orthodox) condemns the Western Church of using unleavened bread in the Eucharist.
- Both churches grow further apart.

Protestant History

- Founder – Martin Luther (1517AD)



Protestant History

- Martin Luther born in 1483 – 1546AD.
- Ordained as a Roman Catholic Bishop in Germany in 1507.
- Professor of Biblical studies in 1512

Third split of churches.

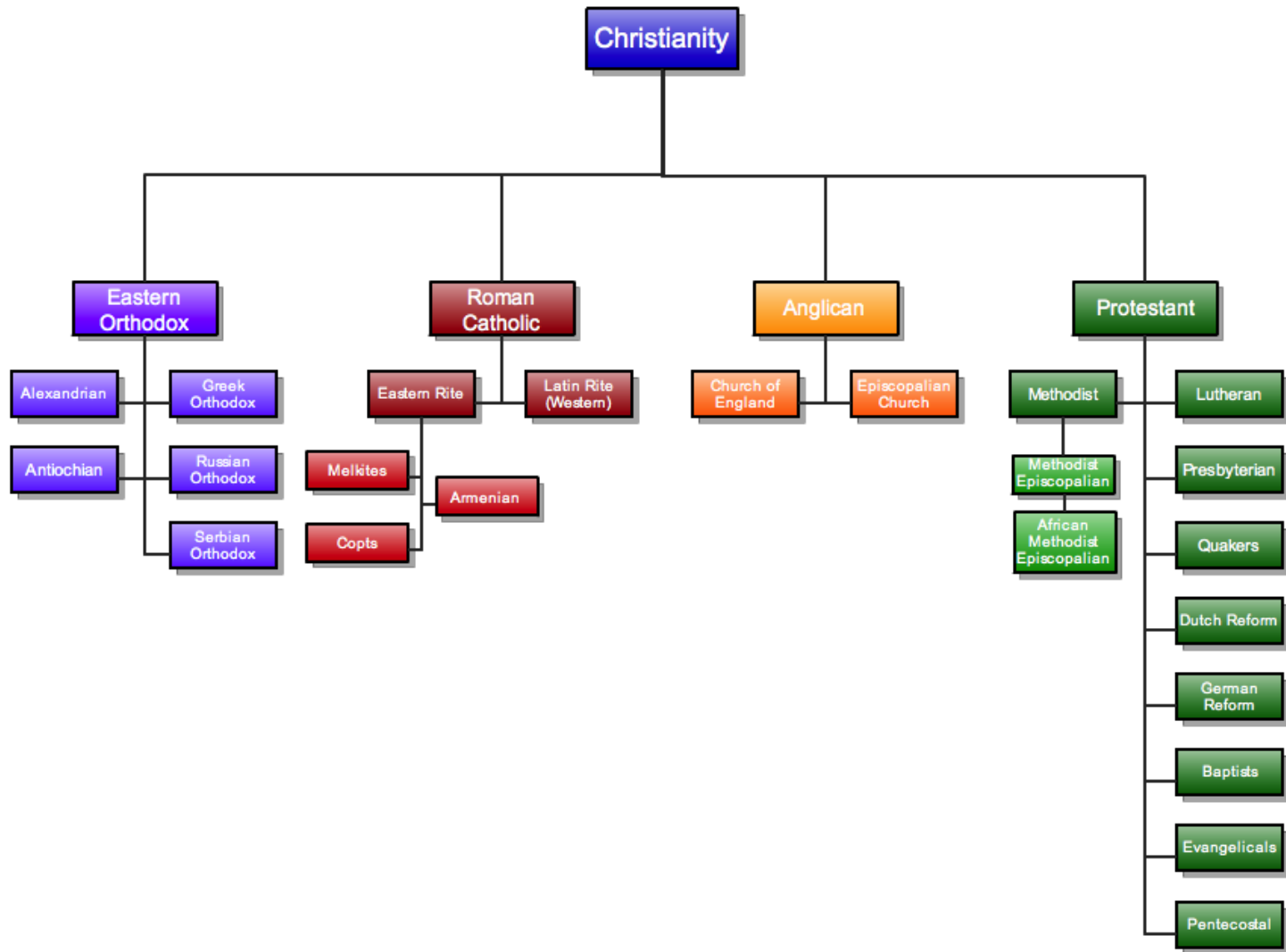
- Luther's beliefs began to stray from Roman Catholic traditions.
- October 31, 1517 begins Luther's "reformation"
- Wrote a treatise to Pope Leo X in 1520 called "The Freedom of a Christian"

What Happened?

- In 1529 Luther's followers become known as "Protestants"
- In 1530 new churches begin to officially form.
- Today, there are more than 350 different sects of the protestant church.

Beliefs of Protestant Churches.

- The Bible should be the only source of our beliefs and traditions.
- The sacraments are only symbolic and not divinely inspired.
- The church should not be lead by any earthly authority.
- St. Mary was only a vehicle by which Christ came to earth.
- The Bible can be read and interpreted by all believers.



On the Sacrament of the Eucharist

- Jn 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is My Flesh."
- Jn 6:53 "Unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of man and drink His Blood, you have no life in you; he who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life."

On the Sacrament of Baptism

- John 3:5 – “I say unto you, except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

On the teachings of the Apostles and authority of the church

- Mat 16:19 – “I will give unto you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

There is only one Truth

- Ultimately, we must protect that which was handed down to us by Christ and the Apostles. It is not ours to interpret at our will.



Comparison Chart

- christianityinview.com/downloads/comparison.pdf