

Church History Early Church, then came Catholics & Protestants

The history of man shows we humans soon depart from God's way. Adam and Eve departed and lost paradise and the tree of life. Cain departed by killing Abel. The whole earth departed bringing on the flood. The descendants of Noah soon built the tower of Babel in departing from God and universally man rapidly fell into idolatry cf: Romans 1:18ff.

Abraham was called of God and was willing to walk in God's way, Isaac remained faithful and Jacob became faithful after fleeing his brother.

Moses was willing to walk in God's way. After being faithful for a short period of time under Joshua, Israel fell away during the Judges and remained mostly idolatrous and wicked during its entire history. God raised them up prophets and then they persecuted and killed.

Finally God sent forth His Son saying surely: "they will reverence My Son." Matthew 21:33ff. Him they slew and hanged upon a tree but God raised Him up and established His Church just exactly like He wanted it established. The Church is the 'maifold wisdom of God" cf: Eph. 3:10 and God's "eternal purpose" cf Eph 3:11 this is God's plan from before the foundation of the world cf Eph 1:4ff. `

The first departure in the history of the church was how Churches were governed. The prophet Daniel said the Kingdom of God or the Church of Christ which God would set up during the days of the Roman Empire would "break into pieces" showing autonomous congregational government was God's perfect plan for the Church cf:

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

autonomous congregational government was God's way to limit the power of any man or congregation.

Scripture teaches a plurality of elders or bishops are to have the oversight of their local congregation, again limiting the power of any man or group of men cf:

Acts 20:28-30 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Acts 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

I Peter 5:1-4 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 1Pe 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 1Pe 5:3 Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 1Pe 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

By 150 AD men began to designate one man as the bishop and he was appointed over an area of several congregations called a diocese. Slowly this became a pyramid form of church government foreign to the Scriptures. In order to pervert a pyramid form of government, you need only pervert the head man. In autonomous congregational government, which God has ordained, if I am perverted to a sinful or false religion, it has nothing to do with the other 19,999 Churches of Christ throughout the world. We see the same phenomenon in today's "change movement" within the Churches of Christ. A highly affluent group from our Colleges and Universities leaving the

principles of the Restoration Movement in order to be like all the nations round about them ... but they haven't got us all yet.

Constantine ended the last great persecution in 312 AD with the edict of Milan. Shortly he called and presided over a Church council at Nicea in 325AD. Bishops then adopted the first man-made creed called the Nicene Creed. Over the years many more man-made creeds proceeded from various Church councils and meetings.

Deu 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Pro 30:5 Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Pro 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

2Pe 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

Rev 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

We date the Catholic Church to 606AD when Boniface III took the title of Pope (papa Latin or pappas Greek = father) or Universal Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church. This is a title that no apostle dared to take upon himself. Instead Christ alone is the head of the Body, the Church cf:

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

Catholics believe that Peter was the first pope and cite cf:

Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Let's understand V:18 "... thou art *Peter* = petros feminine gender Greek word meaning a little stone or pebble. " and upon this *rock* = petra masculine gender Greek word meaning bed rock. The Church was not built upon Peter but Rather upon the bedrock good confession that Jesus " ... art the Christ the Son of the Living God" Peter was human he made mistakes as all men do ... Paul rebuked him to his face Galatians 2:11ff. Peter refused worship and confessed that he was just a man also Acts 10:25ff. Peter was no pope and no other man claimed such glory to himself for almost six hundred years.

Shortly Rome made man-made laws that Latin was to be the only language of the scriptures. Man is commanded to study the Bible cf:

II Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Slowly over time they began to change every truth of God into the lies and false doctrines of men. "Lies" harsh words? Are you offended? Just think it takes just as much power to change a law, rule, regulation or practice of the Church as it took to enact the law, rule, regulation or practice of the Church. Who enacted the first rules of faith found in scripture? God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the apostles and prophets. Who changed them? men.

Why should Roman Catholic priests teach you to call them father?

Matthew 23:9 And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Catholics teach we must work, earn, or merit our salvation. A doctrine that is totally opposed to especially Pauline theology. cf:

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

The Roman Catholic Church invented Mary worship. Pagans had always had male and female deities so to satisfy peoples desire for a female deity, Catholics were taught Mary worship hundreds of years after the death of Jesus and the Apostles. Jesus called Mary: “woman” cf: John 19:26 the inspired apostle Paul called her “woman” cf: Galatians 4:4. She is never mentioned in the bible after Acts 1:14 “... and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brethren”. Yes, Jesus had brothers and sisters, Mary is not forever a virgin any more than she bodily ascended to heaven to act as co-redemp-trix.

Why would they teach you to pray to Mary when there is only one mediator between God and man ?

I Timothy 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

John 16:23-26 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give *it* you. John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. John 16:26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

Why would they teach people to say ‘our fathers’ and ‘hail Marys’ when we are taught by the Lord not to make vain repetitious prayers? The Lord’s Prayer teaches us how to pray, not what to pray.

Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Rome teaches that there is a Purgatory which is kind of a half-way house between Heaven & Hell, that Jesus didn't know anything about. In Luke 16:19-31 or Matt 25:31-46. Jesus taught it is either Heaven, or the Hell that is prepared for the Devil and his angels.

Rome teaches a doctrine of a separate priesthood to perform the sacraments the bible teaches all men are priests to God and the Bible knows nothing about the man made word sacraments cf:

I Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

The Bible teaches a bishop must be (greek *di* from *dio* emphatic must be) the husband of one wife, show me a Roman Catholic Bishop that is married cf:

I Timothy 3:1-7 This *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

Then the scripture tells us the common sense reason why:

I Timothy 3:5-7 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5-8 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

During the time of the Apostles they warned us some shall depart from the faith. The Apostle Paul call two of the pet doctrines of the Roman Church “doctrines (teaching) of devils”

I Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Paul warned us of the coming popes, & that there would be a great falling away from the faith cf:

II Thess 2:1-12 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that

Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The Roman Catholic Church fell so far they actually sold indulgences which they claimed was a kind of “get out of jail (hell) card” that allowed you to buy the forgiveness of your sins before you actually sinned. They claimed you could kind of plan ahead for every eventuality. If you believe you can buy off God’s justice you are worshipping a different God than the one I worship who is found in the Bible cf:

II Peter 2:2-3 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

The wide spread sale of indulgences actually built St. Peters Bacillica in Rome at the Vadicant.

Greek Catholic or Orthodox split from Roman Catholic Church in 1054 AD. They kept all the false doctrines of Rome excepting: They have: No Popes, Priests may be married and they have a cappella singing without musical instruments.

Pro-test-ant Re-formation

1384 John Wycliffe produced hand written translations of the bible into common english based upon Jeromes’ latin Vulgate translation. He died a natural death, but 44 years later the Catholic Pope Martin V had Wycliffe’s bones dug up and burned and then scattered over the river Swift.

Lutheran Church 1530 AD Martin Luther was a Roman Catholic priest and he nailed his 96 theses to the door of the church in Whittenburg Germany showing where they conflict with scripture. Luther was especially opposed to the sale of indulgences, but, being educated by the Roman Catholics, he kept much of their false doctrine in his new religion. Lutheranism is based upon the traditions of men, not the Word of God. If you read Luther's augsburg confession, you will see that he believed that God couldn't come to the earth as Jesus without Mary's permission. Lutherans call Mary the Mother of the Church, and in their sacrements and large catechism, they state that Jesus has given her the keys to the kingdom, and they believed that Jesus promised her the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against her. Nothing in the bible teaches the Church is our mother. God's children are not begotten by the Church but rather by the Word of God. Cf:

I Pet 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

The church of England began in 1534 AD under King Henry VIII. In 1540 he chained a copy of his bible to the pulpit in every Church in England. They kept catechisms and most of the pomp and ceremony of the Roman Catholic Church.

Presbyterian Church began under John Calvin in 1536 AD

1525-1536 William Tyndale produced an english New Testament. He used Greek, Hebrew and Jerome's Latin Vulgate for his translation. The catholics bought up most of Tyndale's first eddition and burned them. Men who begin by burning books will end up by burning men. Tyndale used the proceeds from the Catholics for his first edition to finance the printing of his second eddition in which he printed ten times as many bibles. Tyndale was hunted by the Catholics and strangled and burned at the stake in 1536.

1535 Myles Coverdale came out with the first printed bible.

1537 Thomas Matthew & John Rogers completed a revision of Tyndale's earlier translation.

In 1539, Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press. His first book was a two-volume Latin bible.

In 1560 the Geneva bible was published. It was a revision of the Great bible of 1539. It was written against Catholics by the reformers exiled in Geneva. It was the first bible to be written in printed verse. It was popular among the Puritans in the United States.

1568 the Bishops bible was a translation by scholarly bishops.

1611 The King James translation was published. It is also known as the authorized version. This is the most beautiful translation and is well known for its cadence and poetic style.

Baptist 1611 AD began in opposition to the Church of England.

Methodist 1739 AD John Westley began the methodist Church.

Episcopalian church came out of the church of England in 1739 AD