

Church History and Other Religions 1

Review of Church History

Pentecost, Catholic Church, Reformation, Denominationalism, Restoration

Why did we study that?

Know from where we came, learn from history (pitfalls & good examples), build our faith by comparing movements with the “Foundation”

Now – Other Religions

Why study this?

The Catholic Church

What we have in common:

Points for Further Study:

#1 Authority of the Bible Alone

Organization Hierarchy

Baptism Mode –

Church History and Other Religions 1

Review of Church History

Pentecost, Catholic Church, Reformation, Denominationalism, Restoration

Why did we study that?

Know from where we came, learn from history (pitfalls & good examples), build our faith by comparing movements with the “Foundation”

Now – Other Religions

Why study this?

Not just Catholic bashing, shake our heads at others’ gullibility, not even for debate, but to know where to start and where to go when studying with a member of an “Other Religion” It will be a Bible study – for as in the first section – we have to refer back to the “Foundation” to know how to build.

- The Lord doesn’t want any to be lost. It isn’t my place to slap a denominational label on my neighbor and write them off as unsaveable. On the other hand it isn’t my place to slap the “saved” label on them because they say they are a “Christian.” (See Denominationalism: III)
- My job is to go to my neighbor and share the good news in the best way possible for a favorable response. Knowing what we have in common and what areas need a more careful approach will help.

The Catholic Church

What we have in common:

Belief in God of the Bible, Trinity, Baptism for remission of sins, Bible as an Authority,

Points for Further Study:

#1 Authority of the Bible alone vs. Divine Tradition, Papal Infallibility, and the Bible

2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 John 9-10 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Gal. 1:6-9 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! Matt 15:8-9 “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.

As with any group of people making decisions over time – thoughts have gone back and forth on many issues. Is it possible to have contradictory infallible statements?

Organization Hierarchy Acts 14:23 Titus 1:5 Titus/Paul and Barnabas appointed in each place, 1 Tim 5:17 direct the church (locally),

Priesthood 1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 1 Pet 2:5&9 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Baptism Mode –sprinkle or immerse Baptizo = dip, immerse, Rom 6:4 burial

Subject – infants should (due to Original Sin) Rom 10:9-10 Belief and Confession of Christ is necessary for salvation an infant is incapable of either.

Church History and Other Religions 2

Review of Roman Catholicism

What we have in common:

Points for Further Study:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Denominationalism:

Characteristics:

But isn't it a good thing to have a smorgasbord of choices

Biblical Answer to Denominationalism:

Now a self-check –

Church History and Other Religions 2

Denominationalism:

From this Catholic (Universal) church came many denominations:

Some with very little difference from Roman Catholicism (High Church), some rejecting Catholic teaching regardless (Protestant)

Characteristics:

Spiritual organization greater than local church, but (usually) less than “all the saved”

Reliance on extra-Biblical creeds, confession of faith, mission statement or an individual’s teaching as differentiation

But isn’t it a good thing to have a smorgasbord of choices? All wanting to please God – just in slightly different ways?

Just think about – Jn 15:1-8 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

(Individuals not organizations)

Biblical Answer to Denominationalism:

John 17:20-21 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

(How get in Christ? Rom 6:3, Gal 3:27)

Eph 4:1-6 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to **keep** the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

(We have the unity at one point (“keep”) when? Acts 2:38)

When we are in Christ, keeping the unity of the Spirit – we don’t divide.

So as we go through the Denominational list most of our Points of Diff. will start with this starting point – Baptism (mode, subject, reason). We may find those with whom we had this unity – brothers – brothers in error possibly, but our focus can then turn to regaining the unity instead of accomplishing it.

Now a self-check –

Have we become a Denomination?

Are we spiritually organized beyond the local congregation? (Universities, papers, etc.)

Do we write-off whole congregations on number of cups for communion, VBS, support of orphan’s homes or an individual personality?

Denominationalism is wrong because God calls us to unity, not because “they aren’t in my Denomination”

Church History and Other Religions 3

Review of Denominationalism

What is it?

Biblical Answer to Denominationalism:

Self-check

Lutheran:

Common Ground:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Points for Further Study:

1. Faith Only
2. Sacrament of Lord's Supper
3. Naming Rights

Church History and Other Religions 3

Lutheran:

Now for first Denomination – splitting from the devolving Roman Catholic church.

Our neighbor Louise the Lutheran –

Common Ground:

Bible as the Authority (rejection of Papal Infallibility, although creeds still exalted)

Baptism for remission of sins

Non-works based salvation

Points for Further Study:

1. Faith Only

Rom 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith **alone** apart from observing the law.

James 2:14-26 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. **You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.** In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? **As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.**

But Luther wanted to take James out of the NT. So a different approach – agree . . .

Yes – Gal 2:20 I am crucified (5769) with Christ: nevertheless I live (5719) ; yet not I, but Christ liveth (5719) in me: and the life which I now live (5719) in the flesh I live (5719) by the faith of the Son of God, who loved (5660) me, and gave (5631) himself for me. Christ's Faith

By His faith alone can we now be saved. Then go back to Romans – ch 6

v1-4 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

And 15-18 slaves no longer to sin, but to righteousness

2. Sacrament of Lord's Supper – remission of sins through taking

Perhaps we disagree less than we should. The LS is to be a remembrance, a communion with other Christians, (I Cor 11) but the Word has no indication that we have to have our holy bread to roll back our sins for another week. Our sins were washed away in baptism Acts 2:38

3. Naming Rights – Luther told 'em not to, but . . .

Only under Christ's name can we be saved Acts 4:12

Called Christians Acts 11:26, "church of God" 1 Cor 1:2, "churches of Christ" Rom 16:16, "church of the Firstborn" Heb 12:23, "the Way" Acts 9:2

(Jimmy Allen's rotating sign)

As we saw in our History section – restorationists were continuously wanting to be called Christians. That's The Name of our savior, of whom we follow, and The Name we call upon.

Christians is what we need to be individually. The congregation or gathering or church of Christians who meet in Buford is who we are locally. And Christ's Bride the church is who we are a part of universally.

Any additions to this organizationally or non-Biblical naming is wrong for Lutherans and us.

Church History and Other Religions 4

Presbyterian:

Grew out of Teachings of John Calvin, Calvinism, TULIP John Knox took teachings to Scotland, out, and back in

Common Ground: There is a God+-

Points for Further Study:

Classic Presbyterianism = Calvinism = Total Depravity (under Catholicism – reason for infant baptism), Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace (below), and Perseverance of the Saints (or Once Saved Always Saved – which we'll look at later)

1. **Total Depravity:** Rom. 5:12-21 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— 13for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. 14Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

15But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! 16Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 17For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

18Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. 19For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

20The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom. 1:18-25 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

21For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

24Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

25They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised.

Amen.

Rom 2:12-16 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

13For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

14(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, 15since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) 16This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Gen. 3 Consequences of sin – fallen world, but not pre-sinful man

2. **Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, and Irresistible Grace = Predestination:**

Rom. 8:28-30 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Jn 3:16, Heb. 5:9, Acts 2:38-39, etc. – salvation for all who obey

Rom 5:6, 2 Cor. 5:14-15 – atonement for all, ungodly

3. **Modernism:** I'm just a little too smart to accept _____ from the Bible.

Why have the façade of spirituality? Or Christianity? – Don't ask that way.

Obtain belief in Christ in any form (great man, savior, prophet). Then present the "L" trichotomy or trilemma of CS Lewis - Lunatic, Liar, or Lord.

Matt 11:27 All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Lk 7:22 So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor."

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Church History and Other Religions 5

Review of Presbyterianism

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

Episcopal (Anglican):

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

1. Clergy-Laity and Female Preachers –

2. Cultural/Time restrictions of Bible –

3. Tolerance –

Church History and Other Religions 5

Episcopal (Anglican):

Henry VIII head of "the church" so he can get a divorce 1530's. Separated from Anglican with Revolutionary War.

Common Ground: There is a God+-

Points for Further Study:

1. **Clergy-Laity and Female Preachers** – Rev 1:5b-6 To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Gal 3:26-29 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

1 Cor 14:33-35 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints, 34women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. 35If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

2. **Cultural/Time restrictions of Bible** – Ps 33:11 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

1 Jn 2:3-6 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. 4The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: 6Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

3. **Tolerance** – All about definitions:

Tolerant of all (except the intolerant). Is God tolerant? Yes. Is God judgmental? –

Rom 2:1-8 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. 2Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. 3So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? 4Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

5But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6God "will give to each person according to what he has done." 7To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Upon what are you going to base your definitions?

More loving than God – with the realization of the above judgment is it love to say I'm OK, you're OK?

More Christian than Christ –

Matt. 10:34-39 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

35For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— 36a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' 37" Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Gal 5:19-21 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Does Christ (should I) tolerate, accept, love those who practice the above? Yes, but we can't, "show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance."

Church History and Other Religions 6

Methodist:

John Wesley and brother at Oxford in Anglican church started a club to bring more holiness – good works. Scheduled prayer etc. – Methodists. Wesley never left the Anglicans. Splits over Calvinistic teaching and North-South divide.

Common Ground:

God of the Bible, Bible as an authority, showing faith through deeds

Points for Further Study:

1. Infant baptism (sans original sins) Mt19:13-15 Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. 14Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." 15When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

Acts conversions = all adult (household of the centurion).

But left Calvinistic “Original Sin” in 1910. More of a compromise, man-made, adjustable . . . leads to -

2. Elevating of “Doctrines and Disciplines of the Methodist Church” to equivalent (or greater) than Bible.

If only interpretation of Bible – then why does it change.

If only covering points the Bible does not - (Rev. 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.) and 2 Tim 3:16-17

3. Lauding of Individuals – Title of “Reverend” to preachers.

Mt 23:5-12 "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; 6they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; 7they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.' 8"But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. 9And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. 10Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Christ. 11The greatest among you will be your servant. 12For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Church History and Other Religions 7

Baptist:

1607 London – Smyth, to Holland Anabaptist, back, US part of restoration

Common Ground:

One God of the Bible, Bible as the authority, etc.

Points for Further Study:

1. Perseverance of the Saints – “Once saved always saved”

Heb 6:1-6 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3And God permitting, we will do so.

4It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, 6if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Gal 5:2-4 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. 4You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

1 Cor 9:25-27 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

2. Use of Baptism

Mk 16:15-16 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

To enter Christ Gal 3:27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

For remission of sins Acts 2:38

Lord adds to the church 46-47 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

3. Premillennialism (Post-, a-, rapture, etc.)

Rapture – Mt 24 read with cut point at v36 for second question

Premillennialism - Rev 20:1-6

2 Pet 3:1-13

1 Thess 4:13-18 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18Therefore encourage each other with these words.

Church History and Other Religions 8

Review of Baptist:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Christian Church:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

1. Instrumental music in worship
2. Emotionalism – s and S spirit, emotion intellect both from God,

Church History and Other Religions 8

Christian Church:

Divisions in Restoration times

Common Ground:

One God of the Bible, Bible as the authority

Points for Further Study:

Determination of attitude to interpretation – silence of the scriptures. Does silence give license or limit? Examples?

1. Instrumental music in worship – Eph 5:19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

Speak by striking or twanging psalms and songs with the spirit to praise by plucking the chords of – your heart.

lalountev eautoiv [en] yalmoiv kai umnoiv kai wdaiv pneumatikaiv, adontev kai yallontev th kardia umwn tw kuriw.

What reason would be given for using the instrument (and other innovations)? leads to -

2. Emotionalism – s and S spirit, emotion intellect both from God,

I Cor 14 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. 2For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. 3But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 4He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified. **(What is the point of coming together – edification)**

6Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? 7Even in the case of lifeless things that make sounds, such as the flute or harp, how will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes? 8Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? 9So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. 10Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. 11If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me. 12So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church. **(The emotional only has no meaning on it's own and the point is to build up the church.)**

13For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. 14For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. 16If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? 17You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. **(The emotional helps me, but my hype doesn't help another as God wants.)**

18I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. **(The intellectual side is the important part of building up. It is something to get excited about. Not getting excited about getting excited.)**

20Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. 21In the Law it is written:

"Through men of strange tongues
and through the lips of foreigners

I will speak to this people,

but even then they will not listen to me," says the Lord.

22Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers. 23So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? 24But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, 25and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" **(This cannot be proven with emotions. It is the word of God being proclaimed.)**

26What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. **(The intellect is the point with singing too.)**

27If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. 28If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

29Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. 30And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. 31For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. 32The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. 33For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

As in all the congregations of the saints, 34women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. 35If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

36Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? 37If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. 38If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored.

39Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 40But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

Church History and Other Religions 9

Holiness / Church of God / Pentecostal:

New Year's eve 1899, group wanting more of God (than religious experience so far) - HS came like on Pentecost, allowing speaking in tongues, healing, etc.

Common Ground: surface – 1 God of Bible

Points for Further Study:

1. Baptism – Mt 3:11-12 I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Acts 1:1-5 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

I Cor 12:12-13 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Jn 3:3-5 3In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 4"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" 5Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

2. Miraculous Gifts – Pentecostal claim that 1 Pet 2:22-25 means Christ takes away physical wounds and sickness. But, if it was for all? – Phil 2:27a (Epaphroditus) Indeed he was ill, and almost died. 1 Tim 5:23 Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses.

Claim great commission for all and so are miracles to prove truth in Mk 15:15-18

But, what about Acts 8:9-19 showing the giving of the ability to perform miracles only came from apostles, not able to be passed on to today

3. Adding to requirements for salvation – if you don't have the signs of the miraculous holy spirit you're not really a Christian. Paul warned about adding to the requirements in Gal 5:1-15 1It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. 2Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. 4You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. 6For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. 7You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? 8That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9"A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." 10I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. 11Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. 12As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves! 13You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Church History and Other Religions 10

Review of Holiness / Church of God / Pentecostal:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Jehovah's Witnesses:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

1. Door to door -

2. No immortal soul or hell –

3. Deity of Jesus -

Church History and Other Religions 10

Jehovah's Witnesses:

Charles Russell late 1860's with split Miller group, Watchtower 1881, works rejected today. Judge Rutherford 1917 took over, anti-WWI, changed from Bible study to sell Watchtower, JW name, organization, not well loved at end. Nathan Knorr brought smoother presentation, Theocratic Schools, New World Translation, 106K – 2M by 1977

Common Ground: ?

Points for Further Study:

1. Door to door – what are they pushing?

Mt. 24:45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

But not:

Mt. 24:36,42 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

New World Translation "Greek Scholars"

But at least they are there!

Mk 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

2. No immortal soul or hell – Mt. 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Mt. 22:23-33 That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question.

24 "Teacher," they said, "Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and have children for him. 25 Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. 26 The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. 27 Finally, the woman died. 28 Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"

29 Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God. 30 At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. 31 But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, 32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

3. Deity of Jesus - Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was (a powerful godlike one) God.

Col 2:9-10 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Phillipians 2:5-8 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Church History and Other Religions 11

Review of Jehovah's Witnesses:

Common Ground: ?

Points for Further Study:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Seventh Day Adventist:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

1. Writings of Ellen G. White
2. Seventh Day, Old Law, etc
3. Nearness of coming
4. Lifestyle

Church History and Other Religions 11

Seventh Day Adventist:

From Adventist (2nd coming is soon) rise in 1840's, Miller missed date too many times, Ellen G. White leads with "visions from God"

Common Ground:

One God of the Bible, Bible as an authority (with White)

Points for Further Study:

1. Writings of Ellen G. White

While Rev. 22:18-19 needed for Wm. Miller, prob. not here.

2 Pet 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Heb 1:1-2 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

2. Seventh Day, Old Law, etc Heb. 8 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.

3Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. 4If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law.

5They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." 6But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

7For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. 8But God found fault with the people and said:

"The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 9It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

10This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God,

and they will be my people. 11No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. 12For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

13By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

Separate Law of Moses - ceremonial and Law of God – eg. 10 commandments

Ezra 7:6,12; Neh 8:1,8; etc.

2 Cor 3:7-11 Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, 8will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? 9If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! 10For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

3. Nearness of coming 1 Thess 4, Mt 24 Pre Millennial, James 4:14 14Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. fleeting life – end is near individually for us all – do we live like it? Do we personally preach like it?

4. Lifestyle 1 Cor 3:16-17 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 17If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

Mark 7:18-19 Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? 19For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.")

Phillipians 3:19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

Church History and Other Religions 12

Review of Seventh Day Adventist:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Mormon:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

1. One Plan from beginning
2. Brainwashing of the young
3. Group Closeness

Church History and Other Religions 12

Mormon:

Joseph Smith 1823 vision, tablets, NY, OH, MO, UT with Brigham Young

Common Ground:

One God of the Bible - plus

Points for Further Study:

1. 1 Plan from beginning John 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning. 3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. 6There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Eph 1:3-10 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

2. Brainwashing of the young

Deut 6:4-9 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Prov 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

3. Group Closeness

Acts 2:42-47 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

2 Cor 6:14-17 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." 17"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

Church History and Other Religions 13

Salvation Army:

William Booth and Catherine Booth, to bring salvation to the poor, 1865, Christian Mission in London, later The Salvation Army in 1878. They saw religion turning into salvation by ritual. So turned from sacraments (baptism, communion) to SSS, soup, soap, salvation. Their converts from the East End of London were not accepted into the churches.

Common Ground:

1 God, of Bible, Jesus son of God, Salvation through Him, etc.

Points for further Study:

1. Organization – Army ranks, postings, male/female equivalent roles, central HQ

Acts 14:21-23 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. 23Paul and Barnabas appointed elders[a] for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Titus 1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

2. Outreach with good works –

James 2:1-13 My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. 2Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. 3If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

8If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

12Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

Mt 21:28-32 "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 29" 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 30"Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. 31"Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Mt 9:11-13 11When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" 12On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

--
I Cor 13:1-3 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Jn 14:15-21 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Church History and Other Religions 14

Review of Salvation Army:

Common Ground:

Points for further Study:

- 1.
- 2.

Christian Science & (not) Scientology:

Common Ground:

Points for further Study:

Spiritual and Physical both “exist” –

Sin/Death are not illusory –

Scientology:

Church History and Other Religions 14

Christian Science & (not) Scientology:

Mary Baker Eddy published Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures in 1875.

not rely on conventional medicine but holds that the ills of the flesh, eventually including death itself, can be healed through prayer and faith in God.

teaching that God and God's creation are entirely good and spiritual,

reality of all existence is spiritual, not material all else as illusion or 'error'.

Prayer is process of "awakening mortal thought", effect is healing, -- physical, emotional, and otherwise, health care is not attempted through drugs, surgery, or other physical manipulation, but through "Christian Science treatment", a specific form of prayer intended to spiritualize thought.

Today it is estimated that there are 400,000 or more students of Christian Science. They belong to about 2,300 branch congregations in over 60 countries worldwide.

There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all. Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness. Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual.

1 Jn 3:1-3 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Common Ground:

1 God of the Bible, but The Book is not "real"

Points for further Study:

Spiritual and Physical both "exist" - Jn 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was with God in the beginning. 3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. 6There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Sin/Death are not illusory - I Cor 15:20-26 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 24Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Scientology:

from science fiction author L. Ron Hubbard, began in 1952 as a self-help philosophy Dianetics, "an exact methodology" to help humans achieve awareness of their spiritual existence across many lifetimes and, simultaneously, to become more effective in the physical world. Church of Scientology, the largest organization promoting the practice of Scientology, which is itself part of a network of affiliated organizations that claim ownership and sole authority to disseminate Dianetics and Scientology.

Rehabilitate the thetan (roughly equivalent to the soul) to regain its native state of "total freedom."

Although Scientologists are usually free to practice their beliefs, the organized church has often encountered opposition. While a number of governments now view the Church as a religious organization entitled to the protections and tax relief that such status brings, others view it as a pseudoreligion, a cult, or a transnational corporation

Auditing, E-meter, Space Opera,

Church History and Other Religions 15

Review of Christian Science – not - Scientology:

Common Ground:

Points for further Study:

- 1.
- 2.

Scientology –

Masonic Lodge:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

1. It is a religion.
2. Deeper you go the worse it gets.

Church History and Other Religions 15

Masonic Lodge:

Masons of medieval times, 1700's in England here in mid-1700's, secretive, philanthropic

Common Ground: None with the Masonic Lodge, perhaps a lot with individual

Points for Further Study:

1. It is a religion. Internal documents, Sacred volumes on altar – all equal.

1 Kings 7:13-14 King Solomon sent to Tyre and brought Hiram, (Hiram Abiff) whose mother was a widow from the tribe of Naphtali and whose father was a man of Tyre and a craftsman in bronze. Hiram was highly skilled and experienced in all kinds of bronze work. He came to King Solomon and did all the work assigned to him.

Read p. 64 pt A 2.(of Taylor)

Jn 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

2. Deeper you go the worse it gets.

Church History and Other Religions 16

Review of Masonic Lodge:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

- 1.
- 2.

Judaism:

3 Main Divisions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

1. If Reform Jew –

2. If Orthodox or Conservative - **Jesus Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy**

Church History and Other Religions 16

Judaism:

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), to Egypt, to land, Divided, Assyrian take N in 721BC, Babylonians take S in 606 BC, back in 536 BC, ruled by Greeks, then Ptolemies, then Seleucids, then Romans from 63 BC, Jerusalem/Temple/Genealogical Records destroyed in 70AD, most dispersed (Russia, Europe), British offer homeland with division of Ottoman Empire (Balfour Decl. 1917), Holocaust in Germany in 1930's-40's, more want to go to Jewish homeland in Palestine, war between Arabs, Jews, British, Partition of land in 1947, Nationhood in 1948, 6 Day war in 1967, continued conflict . . .

3 Main Divisions:

Orthodox – Inspiration of all OT, waiting for messiah

Reform – Believe little if anything religious (no worry about Israeli homeland)

Conservative – middle ground, not strict traditions of Orthodox, but do OT, and some messiah

Common Ground: 1 God of (part of) Bible

Points for Further Study:

1. If Reform Jew – starting from scratch with Evidences, Creation, etc.
2. If Orthodox or Conservative - **Jesus Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy**

Ancestors:

1- The "seed of a woman": Genesis 3:15.... Galatians 4:4.

- *Gen.3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*
- *Gal.4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law. (Luk.2:7; Rev.12:5)*

2- Descendent of Abraham: Genesis 12:3, 18:18.... Acts 3:25, Matthew 1:1.

- *Gen. 18:18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. (Gen. 12:3)*
- *Act. 3:25 And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, "Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed." (Mt.1:1; Lk.3:34)*

3- Descendent of Isaac: Gen.17:19, Luc.3:34.

- *Gen.17:19 Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him."*
- *Mt.1:2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. (Lk.3:34)*

4- Descendent of Jacob: Numbers 24:17..... Luke 3:34, Matt.1:2.

- *Num.24:17 I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the sons of Sheth.*
- *Lk.3:34 The son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor. (Mt.1:2)*

5- From the Tribe of Judah: Genesis 49:10, Luke 3:33.

- *Gen.49:10 The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.*
- *Lk.3:33 The son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah. (Mt.1:2-3)*

6- Heir of the Throne of David: Isaiah 9:7.... Luke 1:32-33.

- *Isa.9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. (Isa.11:1-5; 2Sam.7:13)*
- *Luk.1:32-33: He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." (Mt.1:1, 1:6)*

Birth and Childhood:

7- Born in Bethlehem: Micah 5:2.... Matthew 2:1.... Luke 2:4-7.

- *Mic.5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from ancient times.*
- *Mt.2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. (Lk.2:4-7)*

8- To be born of a Virgin: Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18.... Luke 1:26-35.

- *Isa.7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*
- *Mt.1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. (Lk.1:26-35)*

9- Flight to Egypt: Hosea 11:1.... Matthew 2:14-15.

- *Hos.11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son*
- *Mt.2:14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt. (Mt 2:15)*

Toward Death:

10- Triumphant entry in Jerusalem on a donkey: Zechariah 9:9.... John 12:13-14.

- *Zec.9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Isa.62:11)*
- *Jn.12:13-14 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written. (Mt.21:1-11; Jn.12:12, Mk.11:7-9.)*

11- Betrayed by a friend, for 30 pieces of silver: Zechariah 11:12, Psalm 41:9... Mark 14:10, Matthew 26:14-15.

- *Ps.41:9 Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.*
- *Mk.14:10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. (Mt.26:14-16; Mk.14:43-45)*
- *Zec.11:12 I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. (Zec.11:13)*
- *Mt.26:15 And asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. (Mt 27:3-10)*

12- Silent to accusations: Isaiah 53:7... Matthew 26:62-63, Mark 15:4-5.

- *Isa.53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. (Ps.38:13-14)*
- *Mt 26:62-63 Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!" (Mt 27:12-14, Mk.15:4-5)*

13- Soldiers divided his garments and gambled for his clothing: Psalm 22:18... Matt.27:35 (2 Prophecies)

- *Ps 22:18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.*
- *Mt.27:35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots (Mk.15:24).*

14- Crucified, "pierced through hands and feet": Zechariah 12:10, Psalm 22:16... Matthew 27:35, John 20:27.

- *Ps.22:16 Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. (Zec.12:10)*
- *Mt.27:35 And they crucified him.*
- *Jn. 20:25-26 Now Thomas (called Didymus)... he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." (Jn.19:37, 20:27)*

15- No bones broken: Psalm 34:20.... John 19:32-36.

- *Ps 34:20 He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. (Ex 12:46)*
- *Jn 19:33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.*

16- His side pierced: Zechariah 12:10.... John 19:34.

- *Zec.12:10 They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.*
- *Jn 19:34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

17- Vicarious Sacrifice: Isaiah 53:4-5, 6, 12.... Matthew 8:16-17, Romans 4:25, 5:6-8, 1 Corinthians 15:3.

- *Isa.53:4-5 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Is. 53:6, 12)*
- *Mt.8:16-17 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases." (Ro 4:25, 5:6-8, 1Cor 15:3)*

18- Buried with the rich: Isaiah 53:9, Matthew 27:57-60.

- *Isa.53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.*
- *Mt.27:57-60 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.*

Church History and Other Religions 17

Review of Judaism:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

- 1.
- 2.

Islam:

5 Articles of Faith: 1

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

5 Pillars of Faith: 1

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

1. Acceptance of the Bible –

2. Conversion by violence

Church History and Other Religions 17

Islam:

Abraham, Ishmael, Mohammad born 570ad in Mecca, polytheistic Arabs, raised by Uncle, had fits, married rich widow when young, contact with Jews and Christians as camel driver, visions from 40 yo on, 1 god teaching not liked so to Medina, fall out with Jews there, had military successes, back to Mecca, out to all of Arabia by his death, militarily brought Islam to Middle East, North Africa, Spain (Moors), South Asia, after death struggle for control – Split into 3 main divisions:

Sunnis – majority, less radical, when no precedent in Koran, look to Mohammad for example

Shiites – fewer, more radical, follow Ali who married Fatima daughter of Mohammad

Sufis – fewest, mystics, Whirling Dervishes

5 Articles of Faith: 1- 1 God = Allah, 2- Angels inferior to God superior to man,

3- 4 inspired books (Law of Moses, Psalms of David, Gospel of Jesus, Koran), 4- Allah spoken through prophets (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Mohammad), 5- resurrection, heaven, hell

5 Pillars of Faith: 1- confess 1 above, 2- 5 prayers a day, 3- almsgiving, 4- fasting,

5- pilgrimage to Mecca, (possible 6- Jihad Holy War)

Common Ground: 1 God

Points for Further Study:

1. Acceptance of the Bible –

Mohammad told to test truthfulness of his own message by contents of previous divine revelations to Jews and Christians Surah 10:94

Point to Deut 18:15-18 saying Mohammad is the prophet

The LORD your God will raise up for you a **prophet** like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. 16 For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

17 The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. 18 I will raise up for them a **prophet** like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.

Claim Deut 33:2 is saying Moses on Mt. Sinai, Jesus in Seir, and Mohammad in Paran

He said:

"The LORD came from Sinai
and dawned over them from Seir;
he shone forth from Mount Paran.
He came with myriads of holy ones
from the south, from his mountain slopes.

Claim Ps. 45:3-5 refers to Muhammad not Jesus because of sword

Gird your sword upon your side, O mighty one;
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

4 In your majesty ride forth victoriously
in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness;
let your right hand display awesome deeds.

5 Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies;
let the nations fall beneath your feet.

Even in NT Comforter of Jn 15:26 = Mohammad

When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

And Yet:

Claim Bible is corrupted,

not Jesus' words in NT,

Jesus sinless man, not son of God,

no HS in godhead,

Jesus did not die on cross (disrespectful death for prophet of Allah) it was Judas instead,

2. Conversion by violence

Church History and Other Religions 18

Review of Islam:

Common Ground:

Points for Further Study:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Hinduism, Sikhism:

Common Ground: Spirituality

Hindu

Sikhism

Points for Further Study:

1. Individual is important to a personal, loving, sacrificial God

Church History and Other Religions 18

Hinduism, Sikhism:

Common Ground: Spirituality

Hinduism tied with India: original inhabitants Dravidians (dark skinned) believed in karma, reincarnation, multiple gods, Invasion of light skinned central Europeans (1900-1450BC) had sanskrit, rajahs, multiple greek/european like gods. The combination of religions was used by the Indo-Aryans to rule the Dravidians – caste system:

Manu (First Man) originated 4 types: 1 Brahmins from head (priests, holy caste), 2 Kshatriyas from hands (warriors, rulers), 3 Vaisyas from thighs (merchants, craftsmen), 4 Sudras from feet (the rest, servants, laborers) all subdivided into 1000's of castes and outcasts.

Many Sacred writings: oldest = Vedas (wisdom)

Millions of gods: Brahman – concept not person, supreme reality, essence of universe

Brahma – creator, Shiva – destroyer, Vishnu – preserver these 3 make up Brahman

Ganesha (wisdom) elephant head, Krishna (8th incarnation of Vishnu) popular

Teachings: Nirvana (Moksha) = non-existence, wrapped up with Brahman

Reincarnation = Depending on Karma (actions/consequences) reborn up the ladder or down (wheel = samsara)

Salvation by: 1 Way of Works (religious rites), 2 Way of Knowledge (study under guru, raise family, be hermit, go into trance by yoga), 3 Way of Devotion (to a god)

Worship of Cows, Wash sins away in Ganges

Sikhism is youngest of eastern religions. 1469 Nanak in northern India where Islam was coming down into Hindu India. He tried to combine the two religions by teaching 1 God (Sat Nam “The True Name”), kept karma, reincarnation, high ethical code. All about peace between Hindu and Moslem, but split of India led close to destruction and retaliation.

Points for Further Study:

1. Individual is important to a personal, loving, sacrificial God

Man was made in God's image (Gen. 1:26)

We are individually important to him (Lost Sheep Mt. 18, even concerned with birds Lk 12:22-34)

God cares for his people (throughout the OT)

He is a Father (as son says in Mt 7:9-12)

Cares so much he sacrificed for us (Jn 3:16)

Wants to be our Father, adopt us, and give us a fulfilling eternity:

Rom 8:18-23 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

22We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Church History and Other Religions 19

Review of Hinduism, Sikhism:

Common Ground:

Point for Further Study:

Eastern Religions:

Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Shintoism:

Common Ground:

Taoism –

Confucianism –

Buddhism –

Shintoism –

Points for Further Study:

Homework -

Church History and Other Religions 19

Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Shintoism:

Common Ground: Ethical concern, Spirituality

Taoism – Ancient Chinese polytheistic beliefs given form by Lao-Tzu (640BC) (near time Judah goes into Babylonian Captivity)

Including: fear of evil spirits, gain favor of good spirits, worship of ancestor spirits, Yin (male, active, dry, bright, pos.) and Yang (female, fertile, dark, cold, wet, neg.)

Tao = Path or Way, natural flow of things, go with the flow, path of least resistance.

Confucianism – (King Fu-tzu) Confucius (550-479BC) in China (while Buddha in India) ethical system to get along, man basically good, but anarchy in his day. Needed ethics to fill void of spirit worship, Taught: kind, considerate, courteous, educated, lover of poetry and music, filial piety, neg. golden rule.

Buddhism – Siddhartha Guatama (560-480BC) Hindu Indian prince, at 30 left palace grounds and saw 4 passing sights: old man (age will come), sick man (pain), funeral (death comes to all), peaceful monk (he to be). Renounced life and became Hindu monk for 6 yrs of fasting, meditation, and asceticism. Then sat at foot of a Bodhi (wisdom) tree and found “enlightenment” and became “Buddha” – “enlightened one”.

Built on Hinduism it took: karma (good/bad deeds/consequences follow through lives), reincarnation, until reach Nirvana (non-existence).

Differences are: gods and demons also subject to reincarnation etc., no prayer, no single supreme being (often atheists today), reverence of Buddha (idol/god).

Teachings: Middle Way (not indulge in luxury, nor asceticism), 4 Noble Truths – existence entails suffering (both having and not having), suffering is caused by desire for pleasures, desire must be suppressed so no craving, the way to suppression is the 8 fold path: Right Views (accept Noble Truths), Right Intentions (renounce pleasure, no harm to living things), Right Speech (no lie, etc.), Right Behavior (no kill, steal, sexual sins), Right Occupation (living by no harm to anyone or thing), Right Effort (strive for good), Right Contemplation (alert, thoughtful, no desire or sorrow), Right Meditation (when have other 7 give self to meditation)

200 years in India then movement to China, Burma, Japan, Korea Now few in India – did not hold up to Islam as well as the Hindus. Splits including Zen Buddhism.

Shintoism – National Rel. of Japan. Mix of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Jap Myth into a belief that Japan is the special creation of the gods, the emperors are descendants of the higher gods, every other Japanese is descendant of lower gods.

Influence of Jesuits in 1500's = Jesus studied in Jap, not crucified but brother by mistake, he returned to Jap married and lived to 106, and Moses is buried in the south of Jap.

Many divisions or sects, shrines all over, in homes on high shelf, offer rice and green tea, clap hands and pray each day to ancestors and gods.

WWII

Points for Further Study:

Next week with homework: How Eastern Rel. have moved West. Note down when you see any of these influences, both to be able to recognize the beliefs and have points for further study (next week) and to protect our children. What would you be looking for? . .

Church History and Other Religions 20

Review of Eastern Religions:

Common Ground: Spirituality

Hinduism –

Sikhism –

Taoism -

Confucianism -

Buddhism –

Shintoism –

Eastern Religion in the West:

Pantheism –

Relative Truth –

Self-esteem movement –

Astrology –

Violent Ecology/Animal Rights –

Karma –

Reincarnation –

Satanism / Witchcraft –

Yoga –

Mysticism –

Church History and Other Religions 20

Eastern Religion in the West:

Common Ground: Spirituality

Hinduism – Nirvana, Reincarnation, castes

Sikhism – combination of Hinduism and Islam

Taoism - path of least resistance

Confucianism - ethics to fill void of spirit worship

Buddhism – Hinduism without “God”

Shintoism – National Religion of Japan

Pantheism – God in everything = God in you [Gen. 1:1]

Relative Truth – Everything is relative, I’m OK you’re OK [Deut 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.]

Self-esteem movement – self-affirmation since I’m God [Gen 1:26 in image of God]

Astrology – Universe is God so lives are controlled by the force [Deut 4:19]

Violent Ecology/Animal Rights – all living things are sacred (God), and could be reincarnations so have the same rights as humans (God) [Gen 9:1-3]

Karma – excuse for bad behavior, OK I’ll get more chances [Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,]

Reincarnation – channeling, another chance (or 1000)

Satanism / Witchcraft – Yin and Yang, must be balance, help the balance

Yoga – Meditation and mantra, Om to grow closer to self and God, cosmic consciousness [Ps. 77:12 I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds.]

Mysticism – reaction against next week (Secular Humanism), want some mystery [Plenty of mystery in: plan for Jesus, him coming, dying, judgment, salvation, etc.]

Church History and Other Religions 21

Review of Eastern Religion in the West:

Common Ground: Spirituality

Pantheism –

Self-esteem movement –

Violent Ecology/Animal Rights –

Satanism / Witchcraft –

Mysticism –

Secular Humanism:

History –

Need to test beliefs –

Reason, evidence, scientific method -

Fulfillment, growth, creativity -

Search for truth –

Ethics –

This life –

Building a better world -

Knowledge -

Points for Further Study:

Intelligent Design -

Pre-existing?

Ethics

Church History and Other Religions 21

Secular Humanism:

History – Greek Agnostics, Confucius, Galileo, Erasmus, Albert Einstein, Isaac Asimov

Need to test beliefs - A conviction that dogmas, ideologies and traditions, whether religious, political or social, must be weighed and tested by each individual and not simply accepted on faith. - (Acts 17: 11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.)

Reason, evidence, scientific method - Commitment to the use of critical reason, factual evidence, and scientific methods of inquiry, rather than faith and mysticism, in seeking solutions to human problems and answers to important human questions. - (Then why has world gone so badly = religion. Wars, famines, and inhumanity all in the name of “God”)

Fulfillment, growth, creativity - A primary concern for both the individual and humankind in general. - (Eccl 12: Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.)

Search for truth - A constant search for objective truth, with the understanding that new knowledge and experience constantly alter our imperfect perception of it.
Ethics - A search for viable individual, social and political principles of ethical conduct, judging them on their ability to enhance human well-being and individual responsibility.
(Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.)

This life - A concern for this life and a commitment to making it meaningful through better understanding - (I Tim. 4:8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.)

Building a better world - A conviction that with reason, an open exchange of ideas, good will, and tolerance, progress can be made in building a better world for ourselves and our children. - (Jer. 10:23 I know, O LORD, that a man's life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps.)

Knowledge - According to humanism, it is up to humans to find the truth, not wait for it to be handed to them through revelation, mysticism, tradition, or anything else that is incompatible with the application of logic to the evidence. Likewise, humanism: asserts that knowledge of right and wrong is based on one's best understanding of one's individual and joint interests, rather than stemming from a transcendental or arbitrarily local source. - (Prov. 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.)

Intelligent Design - Michael Behe, “Darwin’s Black Box”, irreducible complexity

Pre-existing matter/energy/something

Group Ethics aids the group, but individual unethical behavior aids them.

Church History and Other Religions 22

Review of Secular Humanism:

Common Ground:

Points for further study:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Communism:

The Ideology -

First Stage

The Cows explanation -

Where are the lines?

Church History and Other Religions 22

Communism:

Ideology that seeks to establish a classless, stateless social organization, based upon common ownership of the means of production.

Acts 2:42-47 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

However, can't get there all at once - must have a transitional period which Marx described as the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat, the first stage of communism.

This first stage is all we have seen – where the State is God.

Communism is an outgrowth of Socialism – a system in which property and the distribution of wealth are subject to social control

The Cows explanation -

Pure Communism: You have two cows. Your neighbors help you take care of them, and you all share the milk.

Communism: You have two cows. The government seizes both and provides you with milk. You wait in line for your share of the milk, but it's so long that the milk is sour by the time you get it.

Socialism: You have two cows. The government takes them and puts them in a barn with everyone else's cows. They are cared for by ex-chicken farmers. You have to take care of the chickens the government took from the chicken farmers. The government gives you as much milk and as many eggs as its regulations say you should need.

Capitalism: You have two cows. You lay one off, and force the other to produce the milk of four cows. You are surprised when she drops dead.

Democracy, Democrat-style: You have two cows. Your neighbor has none. You feel guilty for being so successful. You vote politicians into office who tax your cows, which forces you to sell one to pay the tax. The politicians use the tax money to buy a cow for your neighbor. You feel good. Barbra Streisand sings for you.

Democracy, Republican-style: You have two cows. Your neighbor has none. You move to a better neighborhood.

Indian Democracy: You have two cows. You worship them.

So, is there a line between our willingness to share our possessions –

Luke 12:33-34 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

and using the means of production to enable us to give?

Eph. 4:28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

Is there a line between finding that balance in the Christian life and having it politically imposed?

Is every step to the left in government a step toward communism (through socialism) and having the state become god?

Next week is the other side as we study the Religion of Capitalism.

Church History and Other Religions 23

Review of Communism:

Common Ground:

Points for further study:

Capitalism:

What is it?

The gift or the Giver?

“Protestant Work Ethic” and Crossing the Tracks

If the world population were 50 -

Church History and Other Religions 23

Capitalism:

economic system in which the means of production are mostly privately owned and operated for profit.

If the state was God to the Communist
Money is God to the Capitalist

Lev. 25:35-37 If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you. 36 Do not take interest of any kind from him, but fear your God, so that your countryman may continue to live among you. 37 You must not lend him money at interest or sell him food at a profit.

Jubilee - Lev. 25:8-10 Count off seven sabbaths of years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbaths of years amount to a period of forty-nine years. 9 Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. 10 Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each one of you is to return to his family property and each to his own clan.

Mt. 19:23-26 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" 26 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Mt 6:19-24 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Parable of Talents - Mt 25:27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

Col 3: 23-24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

(“Protestant work ethic” and crossing the tracks)

If we could reduce the world’s population to a class of 50 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, the demographics would look something like this:

3 US Americans and Canadians 4 Latin Americans 6 Europeans 7 Africans 30 Asians

40 would live in substandard housing

33 would be unable to read

25 would be malnourished and 1 dying of starvation

12 would not have any electricity

1/3 of all the wealth would be controlled by only 3 people - all US citizens

Since these pages were originally intended as personal notes for class I have not cited my sources. However, between Todd Newman and myself we can get books, videos, and websites for the information above.

Know that I heavily relied upon Wikipedia.org http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page and almost all Bible quotes come from the NIV through Bible Gateway.com <http://www.biblegateway.com/>

Gene Taylor of Centerville Road church of Christ has made his book “Denominations” available online <http://www.centervilleroad.com/downloads/class-books/denominations.pdf> It was invaluable for the earlier lessons in the series.

As was “Traditions of Men Versus the Word of God”, by Alvin Jennings.