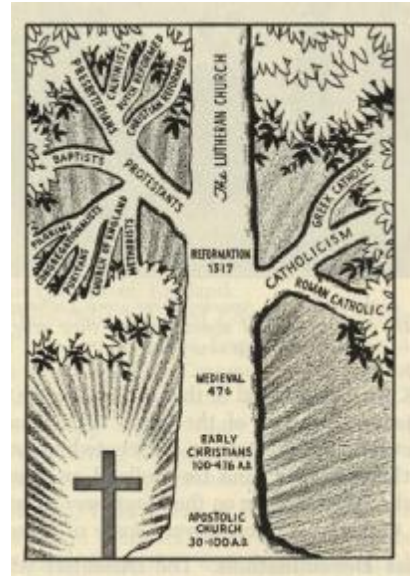


A Study of Denominations

5. Protestant Churches

Not long after the beginning of the Reformation some people tried to take it well beyond the intentions of Martin Luther. There were iconoclasts like Karlstadt who destroyed sculptures and stained glass windows. The Zwickau Prophets claimed direct revelation from God to justify their opposition to everything in the Roman Catholic Church.

There were others like Zwingli and Calvin that were not that radical. Yet they thought Luther had not gone far enough. Their “protest” (hence the term “protestant”) was much stronger than Luther’s. (Zwingli actually died in a battle with Roman Catholics.) All were agreed that the Roman Catholic Church was in error concerning the teaching of the Gospel and the need to return to the Bible. However, the Protestants relied heavily on reason and tended to interpret the Bible in a way that agreed to reason. This emphasis on reason continues to divide the Lutheran Church and the Protestant or Reformed Churches today.



1. What are some of the denominations that developed from this branch of the reformation?

Presbyterian / Reformed / Congregationalists / Baptists / Methodists

2. What are some of the distinctive doctrines of the Protestant churches?

A. The Lord’s Supper is _____.

Matthew 26.626-28

1 Corinthians 10.16

B. Baptism does not _____.

1 Peter 3.21

Acts 22.16

C. God _____ who is to be saved or who will go to hell. (Calvinism)

1 Timothy 2.4

D. Man _____ with God for salvation. (Arminian)

Ephesians 2.1; 8-10

John 1.12-13

How Is a Person Saved?			
Roman Catholic	Protestant (Calvinist)	Protestant (Arminian)	Lutheran
Saved By Faith and Good Works	Saved by God's Divine Election	Saved by Faith (Which is a Work, a Decision, a Commitment)	Saved by Faith (Which is a Miracle, a Gift)
When in doubt look to the Church <i>and</i> "pay" or "pray."	When in doubt look to the Bible <i>and</i> your accomplishments for evidence of your election (Protestant Work Ethic)	When in doubt look to the Bible <i>and</i> in the cover of your Bible and remember the date of your decision for Christ.	When in doubt look to the Bible <i>and</i> to your baptism (a miracle over which you had no control).
Good works are part of the formula for salvation. "Der Himmel ist nict billig!"	Good works (especially industriousness) show that we are part of the elect.	Good works (especially holy living) are emphasized as much or more than the Gospel.	Good works (especially Christian vocation) are emphasized as a service to our neighbor.

E. The main focus of teaching shifts from the Gospel to the _____.

Luke 24.46-47

What is the Difference Between Confidence and Arrogance?

Sometimes Lutherans are said to be "arrogant" in their beliefs. A person once asked, "Will there be Catholics in heaven?" The Lutheran pastor responded: "Yes, and some Lutherans!" Having the right beliefs gets no one to heaven. Truly believing those right beliefs is the key. But it is not arrogant to hold steadfastly to what one believes and to believe that it is the truth. The other side of the coin is to live in doubt. While it might sound arrogant to say "I believe this is the truth," what does it sound like to say, "I believe this is *almost or maybe* the truth!" Before men you will be commended as a thoughtful and considerate person. But what does God think?

And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present *us* with you.

2 Corinthians 4.13-14