

All Extra Credit BEREAN 1.0

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The Priesthood of *The Believer* or of *Believers*?

“Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

I Peter 2:9

“Each believer is a priest, both before God for oneself and by caring for fellow believers and for persons in the world for whom Christ died.”

From *We Baptists*, James Leo Garrett Jr. (editor-in-chief)

To say that a Baptist is a priest sounds strange to some persons. But we are. Every one of us. In fact, Baptists insist that all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior are priests, believer priests. The concept of the priesthood of believers is basic for Baptists. As with some other beliefs important to Baptists, we have varying interpretations of what the concept means, but we all treasure the biblical truth of the priesthood of believers.

What Does it Mean to Be a Priest?

Being a priest involves both opportunity and responsibility. In the Old Testament, a priest held a special place in the worship of God. Priests were responsible for certain aspects of worship, such as the sacrifice of animals. They served as mediators between the people and God.

The High Priest, the head priest, was the only one, however, allowed to enter the Holy of Holies in the Jewish temple. This especially sacred place was separated from the rest of the temple and from the other priests and worshippers by a great curtain or veil.

With the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, all of this changed. No longer was the sacrifice of animals appropriate, because Christ, the Lamb of God, had given himself as a sacrifice for sin. This was a once-and-for-all act.

At the crucifixion of Jesus, the great veil in the temple “was torn in two from top to bottom” (Matthew 27:51 NIV), indicating that Jesus, the great High Priest, now mediated between God and humankind. No longer were priests of the Old Testament variety needed. Indeed, all who believe in Jesus become priests with direct access to God. Human mediators are no longer needed. We can go directly to God in prayer, confession, praise and worship. What an opportunity!

But being a priest also carries responsibility. In the Old Testament, a priest in a sense represented God to the people. Today, the believer priest has responsibility to share his or her knowledge of God with other persons, both in word and in deed.

The believer priest has responsibility to bear witness to God’s love as

shown in Jesus Christ and to demonstrate God's love by ministering to persons in his name. This responsibility is carried out in various ways by Baptists, such as in evangelism, missions, ministry and social action to benefit others.

Where Did the Concept of the Priesthood of Believers Come From?

Martin Luther, a leader in the Protestant Reformation, is often linked with the concept of the priesthood of believers. Luther challenged the Roman Catholic Church's emphasis on the special role played by the Roman Catholic priests.

Luther insisted that every believer was a priest, with direct access to God. He did not call for the elimination of the role of pastors but indicated that all persons, not just pastors, had a priestly function. Even before Luther burst on the European church scene, various Christian groups had stressed the priesthood of believers.

However, the concept of the priesthood of believers for Baptists does not come from the teachings of Luther or any Christian group but from the New Testament. On the basis of various New Testament passages, Baptists have insisted that every person who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ has access directly to God. Each is directly responsible to God. Each is to share the love of God.

The Priesthood of The Believer

The priesthood of each believer in Baptist thought is tied closely to another concept, that of soul competency. Each person has a God-given competence to know and follow God's will. A decision to follow Christ as Lord and Savior is an individual decision; no one can make it for another. Being a believer priest is a gift from God, not a human achievement; it comes with salvation.

Each believer priest is responsible for his or her own actions. Individual believers can go directly to God without the aid of any intermediary.

Individuals can and should read and interpret the Bible for themselves without religious officials dictating to them what to believe.

Believer priests are all equal to one another in Christ (Galatians 3:26-28).

There is only one High Priest, that is Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:23-8:13).

Each believer priest has a responsibility to be committed to Christ and to share Christ through word and deed. As Peter stated it: to "declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9 NIV).

Therefore, a church does not have only one priest. Potentially it has many who communicate the love and forgiveness of God and demonstrate concern and compassion of one believer for another.

The Priesthood of Believers

The New Testament also speaks of the priesthood of believers. Believer priests are part of the body of Christ. They form a community of believers. Although each believer priest is individually responsible to God, all believer priests are related to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This communal aspect of believer priesthood highlights the fact that being a Christian involves fellowship with other believers. This fellowship functions to encourage and assist the believer in Christian growth and ministry. How sad and difficult it would be to live the Christian life in isolation from other believers.

The fellowship of believer priests also aids in interpreting the Bible and understanding God's will. Although each believer priest can and ought to read and interpret the Bible for herself or himself, the competent and wise believer will seek insight and understanding from other believer priests. By searching the teachings of believer priests in the past and by seeking out the wisdom of those in the present, persons are aided in their understanding of the Bible and of God's will.

The Baptist model of a church rests on the concept of the priesthood of believers. A church is made up of persons who have exercised their God-given competency by believing in Jesus as Savior and Lord and by voluntarily associating with a particular fellowship of believers.

Each believer priest in the fellowship is equal to all of the others. Therefore, no one is in authority over all. Thus decisions are made by the community of priests seeking to know the will of the head of the church, the great High Priest, Jesus Christ. They do this by prayer, Bible study, meditation, discussion and decision.

Conclusion

So, which is it? Priesthood of the believer or priesthood of believers? It is not either/or but both/and.

The term "the priesthood of the believer" communicates the biblical emphasis on the individual and soul competency. The term "priesthood of believers" communicates the biblical emphasis on community and fellowship.

Throughout history in all aspects of life, a tension has existed between the individual and the group. Baptists have not escaped this tension. We do well when we refuse to elevate one above the other, but instead attempt to keep them in balance.

Test name: Priesthood of the Believer

Question 1 of 15

Every Christian is a spiritual minister to the people he/she knows on a daily basis.

A) True B) False

Question 2 of 15

A mentality of wide separation between Clergy and Laity can polarize a Christians duty, responsibility, and spiritual gifts.

A) True B) False

Question 3 of 15

A "professional" minister can often glamorize the "public performance" of christian service.

A) True B) False

Question 4 of 15

It is a popular, common, normal thing for average people to see themselves in ministry the way God sees them.

A) True B) False

Question 5 of 15

If we take care of God's business, He will take care of ours.

A) True B) False

Question 6 of 15

A New Testament priestly duty would require us to dress in a formal garment.

A) True B) False

Question 7 of 15

We must have a theology degree to represent God to the people.

A) True B) False

Question 8 of 15

A prophet hears from God and takes that word to the people.

A) True B) False

Question 9 of 15

A priest relates to people and takes their needs to God.

A) True B) False

Question 10 of 15

The worlds purpose of business is to make a profit, Gods plan for business is to use that platform for ministry.

A) True B) False

Question 11 of 15

1 Peter 3:9 says that we are a chosen, royal priest, and we are God's special possession.

A) True B) False

Question 12 of 15

Martin Luther is often linked to this concept of the priesthood of the believer because he challenged the Pope and bishops elite positions.

A) True B) False

Question 13 of 15

Galatians 3:26-28 teaches that we are all equal at the foot of the cross.

A) True B) False

Question 14 of 15

1 Peter 2:5 says not to offer up spiritual sacrifices until you become holy through maturity and obedience.

A) True B) False

Question 15 of 15

Eph 2:10 and Romans 12:1 reserves Pastoral duties to paid professionals.

A) True B) False

The Apostles Creed

The [Lutheran Service Book](#) has the following text:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The creed is footnoted in the [LSB](#) for the word "Christian":

"*Christian*: the ancient text reads "catholic," meaning the whole Church as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine."

Apostle's Creed Test

Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question. (1 point each)

____ 1. How did God Create the heavens and the earth?

- a. with dust and then breathed on it. c. by speaking
- b. from one of Jesus' ribs d. he winked

____ 2. What was Satan's sin?

- a. He lied to the other angels. c. He killed the angel of death.
- b. He tried to be higher than God. d. He had a potty mouth

____ 3. How many ways are there to heaven?

- a. Only one, Jesus. c. Many ways, if you are a good person.
- b. Only one, Buddha. d. Only one, Allah

____ 4. Another name give to Jesus' ascension is

- a. Christ's victory c. Christ's coronation
- b. Easter d. Christ's pilgrimage

____ 5. Jesus' final act is to

- a. Sit at the right hand of God the father.
- b. To reign as King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.
- c. Welcome believers to heaven and send unbelievers to hell.
- d. To preach his victory to the condemned in hell

____ 6. Jesus can be both man & God because

- a. God has magic powers given to him by a fairy.
- b. nothing is impossible with God.
- c. Jesus is not both man and God, he is only man.
- d. Jesus is not both man and God, he is only God

____ 7. What is one human characteristic that Jesus did not have?

- a. He never grew tired.
- b. He never got sick when he ate spicy food.
- c. He never sinned.
- d. He never upset anyone.

____ 8. What is the ancient symbol of redemption?

- a. dove c. cross
- b. butterfly d. pelican

____ 9. What needs to be the foundation of all churches?

- a. concrete c. stone
- b. Christ d. God

____ 10. Jesus means

- a. son of man c. the anointed one
- b. son of God d. our Savior

____ 11. Christ means

- a. son of man c. the anointed one
- b. son of God d. our Savior

_____ 12. The special work of the Holy Spirit is

- a. making us holy.
- b. keeping us from sin, death, and the devil.
- c. bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ.
- d. making special guest appearances in bible stories

_____ 13. Which of the following is not an office that Jesus holds?

- a. Priest c. King
- b. Prophet d. Healer

Completion

Complete each sentence or statement. (Each blank is worth one point--Total 30 points)

14. I believe in _____, the Father _____,
 _____ of _____ and _____.
 And in _____, his only _____, our
 Lord, who was _____ by the _____,
 born of the virgin Mary, _____ under Pontius Pilate, was
 _____, died and was buried. He _____ into
 _____. The third day he _____ again from the
 _____. He _____ into _____ and
 sits at the _____ hand of _____ the _____
 _____. From thence he will come to _____ the living
 and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the _____ Christian Church, the
 _____ of _____, the _____ of
 sins, the _____ of the body, and the life everlasting. _____.

Matching

Each term will only be used once, and all terms will be used (1 point each)

- a. Father c. Maker
- b. Almighty d. Creator

_____ 15. fashioned the heavens and earth

.

_____ 16. we are His children in Christ

.

_____ 17. God can do all things

.

_____ 18. made the heavens and earth out of nothing

Matching

- a. His witnesses
- b. Invisible
- c. Conversion
- d. Visible
- e. Holy Spirit
- f. Sacraments
- g. communion of saints
- h. catholic

Each term will only be used once, and all terms will be used (1 point each)

- ____ 19. universal
- ____ 20. a method used to present God's salvation to non-believers
- ____ 21. Includes all true believers regardless of denomination, ethnicity, etc. and is found wherever the Gospel is proclaimed
- ____ 22. the process of being turned from darkness to light
- ____ 23. includes all Christians, together with unbelievers and hypocrites, in a local congregation.
- ____ 24. inspired the Bible
- ____ 25. Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- ____ 26. a gathering or assembly of believers

Short Answer

- 27. List the four ways that the Spirit works for us and in us. (4 points)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- 28. In what two areas does the Holy Spirit help us grow?(2 points)
- 29. Name the three creeds used by the church. [try your best with spelling] (3 points)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- 30. What are the two natures of Jesus? (2 points)

Apostle's Creed Test

Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- 1. ANS: C
- 2. ANS: B
- 3. ANS: A
- 4. ANS: C
- 5. ANS: C
- 6. ANS: B
- 7. ANS: C
- 8. ANS: D
- 9. ANS: B
- 10. ANS: D
- 11. ANS: C
- 12. ANS: C
- 13. ANS: D

COMPLETION

14. ANS: God, Almighty, maker, heaven, earth, Jesus, Christ, Son, conceived, Holy, Spirit, suffered, crucified, descended, hell, rose, dead, ascended, heaven, right, God, Father, Almighty, judge, holy, communion, saints, forgiveness, resurrection, Amen.

MATCHING

- 15. ANS: C
- 16. ANS: A
- 17. ANS: B
- 18. ANS: D
- 19. ANS: H
- 20. ANS: A
- 21. ANS: B
- 22. ANS: C
- 23. ANS: D
- 24. ANS: E
- 25. ANS: F
- 26. ANS: G

SHORT ANSWER

- 27. ANS: Calls enlightens sanctifies keeps
- 28. ANS: wisdom & knowledge
- 29. ANS: Athanasian Nicene Apostles'
- 30. ANS: human & divine man & god

Religion Quiz:

1. What are the two religions that originated in India?

- A. Hinduism & Buddhism C. Islam & Christianity
- B. Hinduism & Christianity D. Buddhism & Islam

2. Which religion was formed based on a blending of ideas & follows the 4 Vedas?

- A. Buddhism C. Islam
- B. Hinduism D. Christianity

3. What religion is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Guatama and originated in the 500s BC?

- A. Buddhism C. Islam

B. Hinduism D. Christianity

4. Which religion is polytheistic?

A. Judaism C. Islam

B. Hinduism D. Christianity

5. Which of the religions followed the Hebrew Bible?

A. Buddhism C. Islam

B. Judaism D. Christianity

6. Which religion follows the 5 Pillars & blends religion and law together?

A. Buddhism C. Islam

B. Hinduism D. Christianity

7. Which religion believes that in order for reincarnation to end, you must realize the world is an illusion and then your soul will reach Brahmin?

A. Buddhism C. Islam

B. Hinduism D. Christianity

8. Which religion believes that in order for reincarnation to end, you must reach nirvana (a state of perfect peace)?

A. Buddhism C. Islam

B. Hinduism D. Christianity

9. Which religion stresses following the 4 Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path to Righteousness?

A. Buddhism C. Islam

B. Hinduism D. Christianity

10. Which religion believes that Jesus Christ was the son of God?

- A. Buddhism C. Islam
- B. Hinduism D. Christianity

11. Which religion originated on the Arabian Peninsula?

- A. Buddhism C. Islam
- B. Hinduism D. Christianity

12. The birth of _____ switched us from BC/BCE dates to AD/CE dates.

- A. Muhammad C. Abraham
- B. the Buddha D. Jesus

13. Which person became “enlightened” after wandering around for 7 years before meditating under the Tree of Wisdom?

- A. the Buddha C. Muhammad
- B. Abraham D. Jesus

14. Many religions are “monotheistic”. What does this mean?

- A. Many gods C. No god
- B. One god D. Worship of nature

15. Muhammad was the founder of _____.

- A. Buddhism C. Islam
- B. Hinduism D. Christianity

16. Buddhism taught that in order to end _____ people should follow the 4 Noble Truths.

- A. Nirvana C. The church
- B. Fighting D. Suffering

17. Which is not one of the 5 Pillars of Islam?

- A. Pilgrimage to Mecca C. Give alms (money) to poor
- B. Fast everyday of your life from sun up to sundown D. Pray 5 times a day

18. Which religion would follow the Torah?

- A. Judaism C. Islam
- B. Hinduism D. Christianity

19. Which is the oldest religion?

- A. Buddhism C. Islam
- B. Hinduism D. Christianity

20. Which religion told Abraham to leave Mesopotamia and go to Canaan and does not believe that Jesus is God's son?

- A. Buddhism C. Judaism
- B. Hinduism D. Christianity

Over 1 Billion Protestant Christians

(10 different groups will give 10 variations on these numbers)

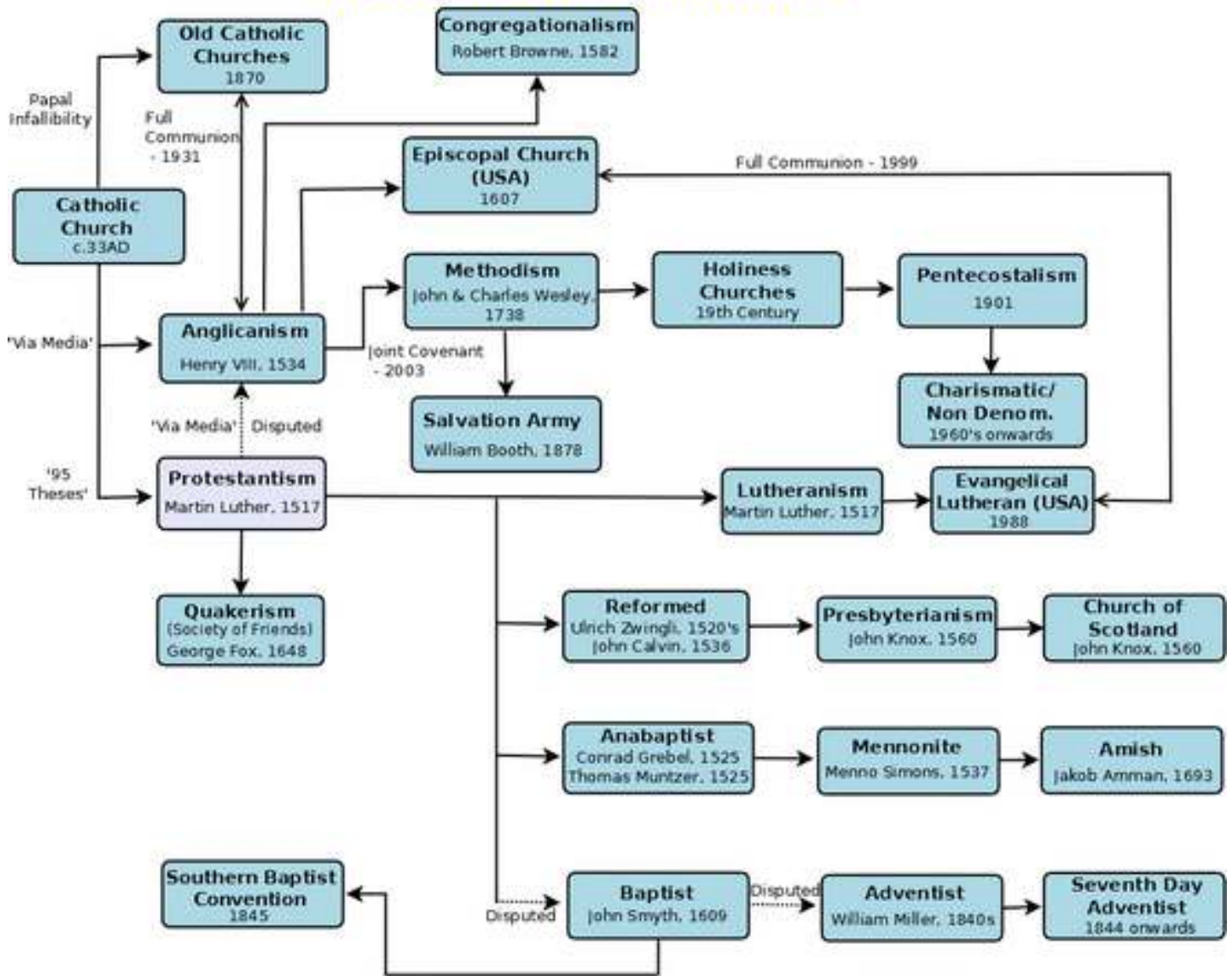
estimated 30,000 to 40,000 denominations worldwide

217 Denominations listed in the USA with 3,200 separate congregations

TOP 35:

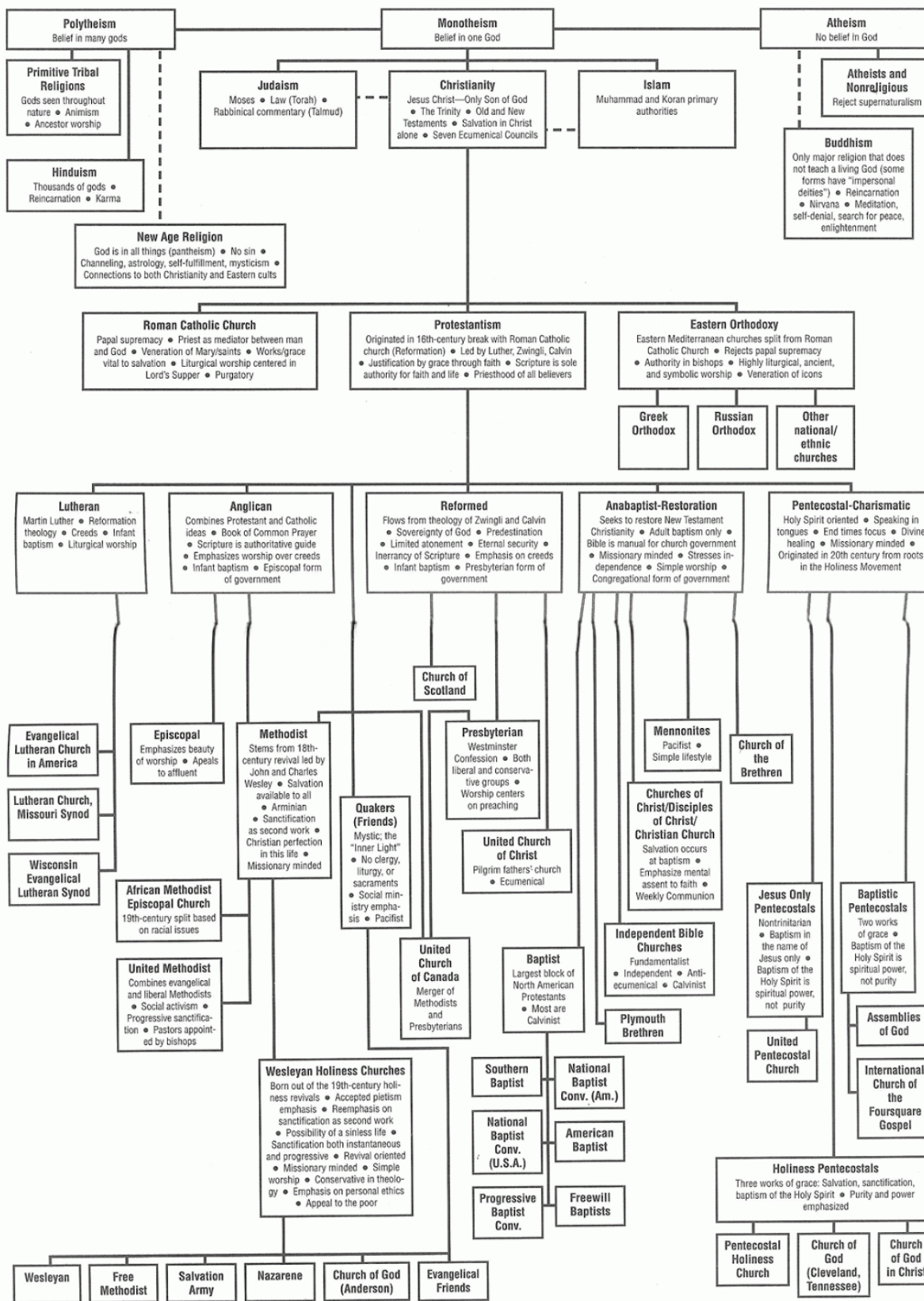
Baptist	33 million
non denominational	14 million
Methodist / Wesleyan	14 million
Lutheran	9.5
Presbyterian	5.5
Pentecostal / Charismatic	4.4
Episcopal	3.4
Mormon	2.7
Church of Christ	2.5
United Church of Christ	1.3
Jehovah Witness	1.3
Assembly of God	1.1
Evangelical	1.0
Church of God	944k
7th day Adventist	724k
Orthodox	645k
Holiness	569k
Nazarene	544k
Disciples of Christ	492k
Brethren	358k
Mennonite	346k
Apostolic	254k
Quaker	217k
Christian Science	194k
Full Gospel	168k
Indépendant Christian	71k
Foursquare	70k
Salvation Army	25k

Protestant Denominations



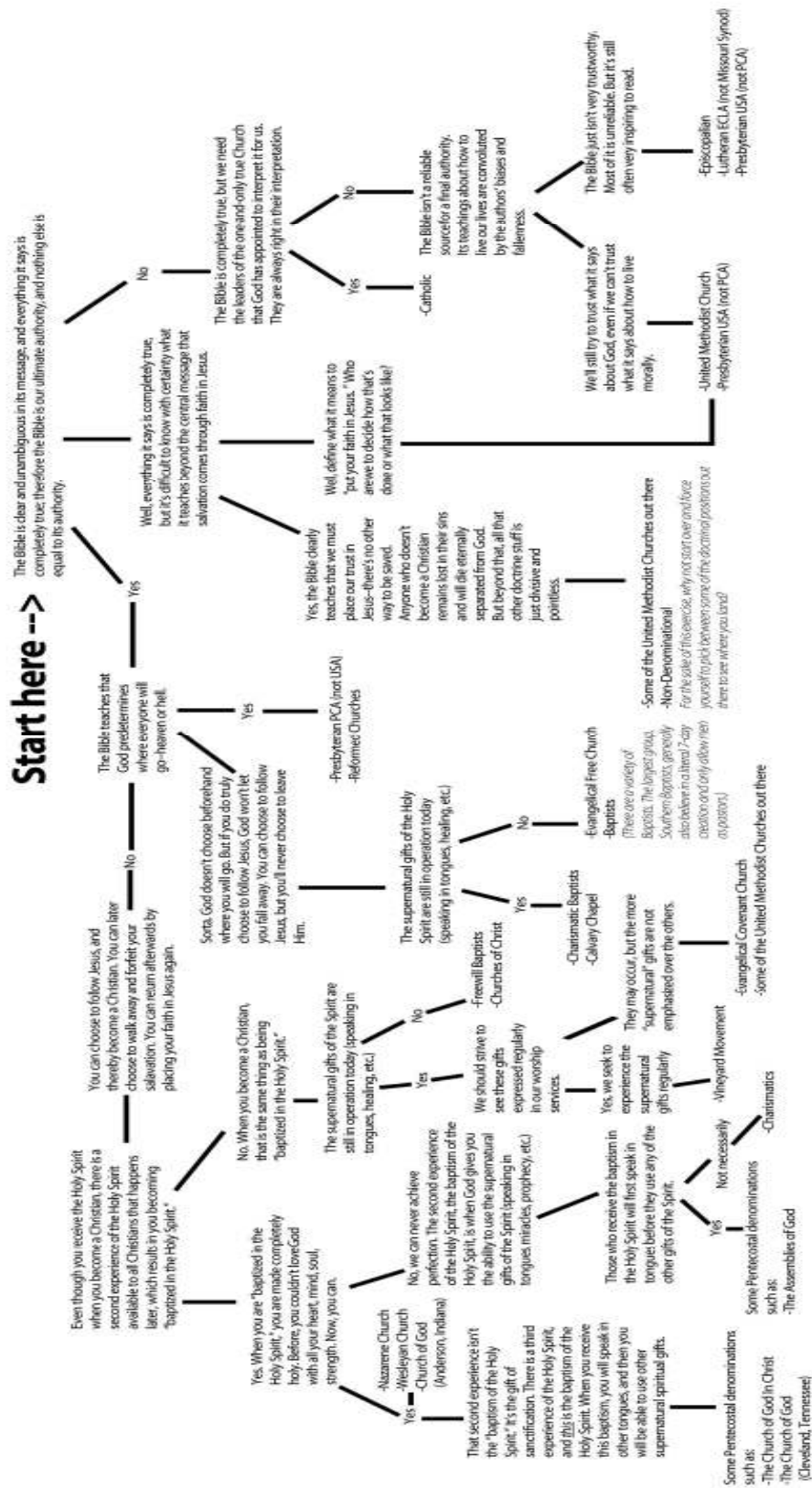
A FAMILY TREE OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS

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WHICH DENOMINATION AM I?

www.timfalk.com/blog



Denomination *Draw a line to match them up* **Leader**

Methodist	John Knox
Lutheran	Charles Taze Russel
Salvation Army	Azusa Street
Disciples of Christ	Joseph Smith
Jehovahs Witness	Martin Luther
Presbyterians	James O'Kelly
Reformed	William Booth
Pentecostal	John and Charles Wesley
Mormons	Aimee Semple McPherson
Foursquare	George Fox
Baptist	John Huss
Holiness	Menno Simmons
Nazarene	Fines Bresee
Brethren	Chuck Smith
Quakers	Charles Finney
Mennonite	John Smythe
Calvary Chapel	Thomas Campbell
Church of Christ	John Calvin
Scientology	L Ron Hubbard

Theology = “the way we think about God”
do we embrace or reject these thoughts / practices?

Liberal

Universalist Unitarian vs.
find your own path to God
inclusive, welcoming
all religions are good
many books are inspired
dress casual
many modern english translations are acceptable
modern concert rock music in church
pro choice
same sex marriage
women are called gifted leaders, speakers
priesthood of the believer
democracy run church, voting
mob rule
casual sporadic attendance -

Conservative

Westboro Baptist church
only our club, our way
exclusive, elitist
Christianity is the only way to heaven
the Bible alone is infallible and inspired
wear sunday best suit, tie, dress
King James only
traditional hymns, choirs
pro life
traditional family values
ordain only men
clergy / laity separation
republic, appointed representatives
dictator
required to be there when the doors are open

I know a lot of Christians, and they're split pretty evenly between conservative and liberal. I like the conservative Christians, mainly because they're so clear about what they believe. They know what the **Bible** says; they know who they are; they know what they're doing in life; boom--- they're solid. The whole "backbone of America" thing is no joke; the strongest trees, after all, have the deepest roots. Not a lot of wafflers in the conservative camp. Plus, they're super dedicated. Conservative Christians don't wonder if they're in the mood; they go to church. They go to Bible study. They show up for the church functions. They actually *do* stuff. Conservative Christians also tend to be, in practice, extremely loving. Liberal Christians think conservative Christians are harshly judgmental, and sort of fundamentally (ha, ha) hardhearted. They think that if, in the middle of the night, a clearly gay guy showed up at the home of a Christian conservative in need of help, he'd summarily get a door slammed in his face. But he wouldn't. All the conservative

Christians I've ever known are serious about putting God's love into practice. The fact that they're so sure of what they believe makes them *more* open to new thoughts, ideas, and experiences. If you're sure of who you are, you're a lot more open to discovering who others are. When things get rough, it's good to know a conservative. On the other hand, conservative Christians can be *too* sure they're right about everything. It's too easy, when you're a conservative, to boil down what you believe into a really simple set of assertions, and to then never again question or allow those assertions to evolve (har, har). Then it just becomes about rules; then it's too easy to make everything about who is and isn't on the right side of right. When it comes to something as complex as God and history, it's too easy for "keeping it simple" to become "keeping it stupid"---which too easily becomes "keeping it meanspirited." Conservatives have a troubling propensity for closing their minds. I like liberal Christians because they're so generous with their love and respect. They're *seriously* focused on God's love, and they're not afraid to insist that anything that hinders that love must be suspect. They love Jesus; Jesus preached love; they're all about loving as Jesus did, period.

Also, I like the way liberal Christians are so thoughtful. They listen. They reflect. They refine. They search. They question. They study. They understand that part of their *job* as Christians is to actively try to access the mind and heart of God, and they're disinclined to let anything interfere with that goal. They're not afraid to get inspired. They live with the confidence that God will never fault them for loving too much. On the other hand, liberal Christians can waffle like IHOP on a Sunday morning. They too often fall prey to thinking that the emotions of their loving feelings is really *all* they need to guide them, with the result that they never feel a need to be clear on what they *actually* believe at all. Maybe Jesus was mainly a social activist. Maybe the cross is a metaphor. Maybe Jesus walking on water was an optical illusion. And so on, until they may as well be astrologers. Yet for all their comfortable ambiguity, liberal Christians can also be altogether too smug, too sure, too condescending toward those who take the Gospel as gospel.

They tend to think they're smarter than they are. In the main, the problem with liberal Christians is that they can stay so busy remaining lofty and above it all that their rubber never hits the road. Many of them are better with compassion as a theory than a practice.

Test name: Liberal / Conservative Theology

Question 1 of 15

Two polar opposites of God would be Universalist Unitarians and Westboro Baptist church.

A) True B) False

Question 2 of 15

Because we embrace free will and evangelism, we are liberal when it comes to being inclusive and welcoming anyone at our church.

A) True B) False

Question 3 of 15

We believe that all religions are created equal and can lead people to heaven as long as they are sincere.

A) True B) False

Question 4 of 15

We believe that many books are inspired by God and can be just as important as the Bible.

A) True B) False

Question 5 of 15

It is a "conservative" value to have a formal dress code of wearing your Sunday best including a suit, tie or dress.

A) True B) False

Question 6 of 15

We believe in using only the King James version of the English Bible.

A) True B) False

Question 7 of 15

Liberals tend to sing hymns, sit in pews, and have choirs.

A) True B) False

Question 8 of 15

Pro choice and pro life are political issues and should be left out of the church.

A) True B) False

Question 9 of 15

We do not believe that a woman should preach on Sunday, that is too liberal.

A) True B) False

Question 10 of 15

We are both liberal at times on some issues and conservative on others.

A) True B) False

Question 11 of 15

People tend to label and judge quickly based on preconceived ideas about church, God, and the Bible.

A) True **B)** False

Question 12 of 15

A Christian must be a Republican, only Heathen are Democrats.

A) True **B)** False

Question 13 of 15

If I am loving and accepting, I don't have to have good boundaries. I can waffle on doctrinal ideas and attend whenever it is convenient.

A) True **B)** False

Question 14 of 15

The way we are governed as an organization / church will be a reflection of our beliefs.

A) True **B)** False

Question 15 of 15

If I am extreme in my conservative values, I will probably not be teachable and will likely have an issue with pride or self righteousness.

A) True **B)** False

What the Bible says about good doctrine -

Titus 1:9 - He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Titus 2:1 - But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:2-4 - Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

1 Timothy 6:3-5 - If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:5 - Having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Hebrews 6 - (Doctrines of the Apostles)

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so.

QUOTES ON DOCTRINE –

Any doctrine that will not bear investigation is not a fit tenant for the mind of an honest man. Any man who is afraid to have his doctrine investigated is not only a coward but a hypocrite.”

— **Robert G. Ingersoll,**

“In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”

— **Rupertus Meldenius**

“Adjust your doctrine - or just minimize doctrine - to attract the world, and in the very process of attracting them, lose the radical truth that alone can set them free.”

— **John Piper**

“One century's saint is the next century's heretic ... and one century's heretic is the next century's saint. It is as well to think long and calmly before affixing either name to any man.”

— **Ellis Peters,**

“Doctrines are meant to serve man, not the other way around.”

— **Amin Maalouf,**

“No man is exempted from the subtle deception of doctrinal drift – the man of God expects this temptation.”

— **Gary Rohrmayer**

“The more you know about Christ the less will you be satisfied with superficial views of Him.”

— **Charles Haddon Spurgeon,**

“To escape the error of salvation by works we have fallen into the opposite error of salvation without obedience. In our eagerness to get rid of the legalistic doctrine of works we have thrown out the baby with the bath and gotten rid of obedience as well.”

— **A.W. Tozer,**

“When I was young I was sure of everything; in a few years, having been mistaken a thousand times, I was not half so sure of most things as I was before; at present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to me.”

~ **John Wesley**