

Lutherans and Other Denominations

Ancient Traditions

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Eastern Orthodox

Five Centers of the Early Church = Patriarch over each, all at equal level

J = Jerusalem A = Antioch R = Rome C = Constantinople A = Alexandria

History

- 313 - Edict of Milan = Constantine legalized Christianity, ended years of persecution
Constantine made church lands tax-free, built churches, influenced worship (incense, minister garments)
 - 330 - Constantine moved political capital from Rome to Byzantium (renamed Constantinople)
J, A & A looked to C for leadership = J, A, A later conquered by Muslims
 - 854 - Ignatius of Constantinople imprisoned for refusing to administer sacrament to Caesar Bardas = too immoral
Numerous disagreements over years between Rome and Constantinople
 - 1017 - Roman church added *filioque* to Nicene Creed
The Spirit proceeded from the Father *and the Son* = Eastern church maintained from Father only
 - 1054 - *The Great Schism* - Pope and Patriarch excommunicated each other = Four Patriarchs left
 - 1453 - Muslims conquered Constantinople = Moscow became strongest center of eastern Christianity
 - 1530 - Augsburg Confession immediately translated to Greek = Sent to E. O. Patriarch for opinion
1575 - Augsburg Confession rejected by Patriarch
- Orthodox Church has not been influenced by western reforms and developments
Claims to be “the direct heir and true conservator” of the original church
The Holy Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in North America = Official title

Statistics

- Most Orthodox churches are state churches = Recognize each other as part of the one true church
No single leader (ie, pope) = Patriarch of Constantinople holds primary title of *Ecumenical Patriarch*
Now 9 Patriarchs - C, J, A, A, Russia (Moscow), Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia
Groups are pushing for a Patriarchate of North America
- 1970 – Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in North America became Orthodox Church in America
Around 240 million in world = 85% in what had been communist countries, 1.2-2.5 million in US
Greek and Russian Orthodox are the largest = Show membership slides
Largely in northeast and west coast = Show county slide

Scripture

- Septuagint (Greek) is accepted version of Old Testament = First 5 (Torah) in 250 BC, Rest in 250-50 BC
Differences from original Hebrew were corrections inspired by the Holy Spirit
Apocrypha is accepted as divinely inspired canon = Apocrypha slide
Orthodox means “true doctrine” or “straight teaching” = Holy Tradition is equally important
Catechisms and church leaders are needed to properly understand the Bible
Orthodox also means “true glory” = “giving glory to God is the purpose of life”
Christianity is a liturgical religion. Worship comes first, doctrine and discipline second.
Sight-oriented liturgical worship = Icons, ornate décor, more observing than participating, stand

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Doctrine

Creeds

Nicene Creed is most important = Constantinople played a large part in developing NC in 4th Century
Apostles and Athanasian Creeds are also valid = Not as important as Nicene

Seven Ecumenical Councils (300-700 AD) = Joint with Roman Catholic church
Developed doctrinal standards = Still hold today
Held in Nicaea, Ephesus, Chalcedon, Constantinople = All in the East

Salvation - Faith and works are essential for salvation = God's grace enables man to produce these works
Confession of Dositheus: *We believe that man is justified not simply by faith alone, but by faith which is active through love, that is, through faith and works.*

Mysteries (Sacraments)

Mysteries are necessary for salvation = Grace is conveyed ONLY through the sacraments

Orthodox Mystery:

*Rites instituted by Christ
to convey the grace of God
invisibly through visible signs
and bring to men the regenerating,
justifying and sanctifying grace.*

Lutheran Sacrament:

*A sacred act ordained by God
through which He brings grace to men
through external means
connected with His Word.*

B = Baptism - Must immerse 3 times, Infant baptism is accepted

C = Chrism - Anointing with holy oil that immediately follows baptism, Their form of confirmation

E = Eucharist - Immediately follows baptism and chrism (regardless of age), Because it is needed for salvation
Transubstantiation = Bread and wine actually become body and blood (unexplained)
Leavened bread is dipped into wine and spooned into mouth = Must fast from midnight before

P = Penance - Must go to confession at least once per year

HO = Holy Orders - If unmarried upon ordination, must stay celibate

Major Orders = Bishop (selected from celibate monks, uninterrupted apostolic succession), priest, deacon

Minor Orders = subdeacon, reader, acolyte

M = Marriage - Included because Ephesians 5:31 calls it a "mystery"

HU = Holy Unction - Anointing the sick, For the purpose of healing

Miscellaneous

Saints and Angels = Revered and asked to intercede between God and man

The Holy Liturgy = In ancient Greek, Chanted between priest and choir or cantor, Dramatizes the doctrine
Little congregational involvement = come and go as you wish, lasts 3-4 hours, just watch

Church Buildings = Very colorful and ornate

Look eastern with central dome and spires = No pews inside most churches

Disagreements with Roman Catholicism - A few examples:

Reject pope as the sole "vicar of Christ on earth" and papal infallibility (one of 5 peers)

Honor Virgin Mary, but reject dogmas of Immaculate Conception (sinless) and the Assumption

Revere the cross, saints and angels, but reject teaching of surplus merits of the saints and indulgences

Dead and living pray for each other, but there is no purgatory (where souls are cleansed before heaven)

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Roman Catholic

Statistics

- Largest Christian body on earth - 1 billion members (50% of Christians - was 58% 20 yrs ago)
 - 62 million in United States (30% of Christians) = 80% urban, show map
- Second largest religious body on earth = Muslims are a very close first (1.1 billion)
- 1565 - First Catholic parish in US - St. Augustine, Florida
- 1633 - Maryland founded by Lord Baltimore = A haven for Catholics, First colony to guarantee religious liberty
 - At end of Revolutionary War - 20,000 Catholics in US, 15,800 lived in Maryland

Pope

- 314 - Title first used for bishop in Rome = From Latin word *papa* - meaning *father*
- Claims succession from Peter = Cardinals and bishops succeeded the apostles
 - Cardinals = papal advisors, limited to 70 – Moses had 70 advisors (Numbers 11:16-17), 70 in Sanhedrin
 - Bishops = In charge of diocese - a group of parishes
 - Priests = Superior to lay people, have power to celebrate Mass and to forgive sins
- 1870 - Papal Infallibility = Pope declared to be infallible in areas of faith and morals
 - Statements are final, irreversible and from God = No one can judge a papal decision
 - Concede that some popes were not in union with Christ = *A heretic would cease to be pope*
- Pope John Paul II (1978-2005) was the first non-Italian pope since 1520s (from Poland) = 2nd longest

Doctrine

Scripture

- Official version is Latin by Jerome (Vulgate), Accept the Apocrypha = Some doctrines from Apocrypha
- The Church, not the Bible, is the rule of faith = Church has the exclusive right to interpret Scripture
 - Bible has no authority over the church - John 21:25 = Not everything has been written

Traditions

- Given to the church by Christ and apostles through word-of-mouth = Church fathers wrote it down later
- More authority than the Bible - See “Doctrinal Deviations” on next page
- Since no man can be certain that his reason and intellect has correctly interpreted theology, he must look to the Church for correct interpretation of religious facts.*

Creeds

- Accept Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian and Creed of Pius IV from the Council of Trent (1545-1563)
 - Council of Trent summarized doctrine in direct opposition to the Lutheran Reformation
- Nicene proves that only the Roman Catholic Church is valid
 - One = All members have the same faith, same sacraments, same leader
 - Holy = Holy founder, holy doctrine, holy sacraments, holy saints
 - Catholic (universal) = Existed since Christ, and world-wide
 - Apostolic = Lawful successors of the apostles

Salvation

- Must be a member to be saved - *It is necessary to salvation that every man should submit to the pope*
- Salvation is received at baptism; may be lost by mortal sin; can be regained through penance
- Saved by grace = Not through faith, Grace received through the sacraments
- Grace = A quality infused by God to enable man to merit eternal life through good works

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Sins

Two Types of Sin

Venial = Not very serious, don't need to be repented, paid by punishment on earth or in purgatory

Mortal = To be mortal, a sin must be serious, realized as serious, fully consented to – damned to hell

Mortal sins must be repented, forgiven by the priest and paid for on earth or in purgatory

Purgatory - Pays for venial sins and unpaid punishment debts = Time of suffering between death and eternal life

Indulgences = Taken by church from spiritual treasury of extra merits of past saints

Reduce suffering time in purgatory

Sacraments

A Sacrament is: an external sign, tied to the Word, which brings invisible grace, and was instituted by Christ

Absolutely necessary for salvation = Only administered by someone who has received Holy Orders

B = Baptism - Removes original sin, Begins membership in catholic church

Essential for full salvation = Unbaptized infants go to limbo (forever happy, but excluded from paradise)

Anyone may baptize in an emergency, water is not required

C = Confirmation - Receive power of the Holy Spirit to be enabled to believe firmly, At least 7 years old

E = Eucharist - Laity receive only the bread, Body has blood in it (changed in some churches)

Transubstantiation = Bread and wine cease to exist, Only their color, taste, smell and form remain

P = Penance - Forgiveness for mortal sins committed after baptism, still have to suffer punishment

Required at least once per year = Only the priest can forgive sins

HO = Holy Orders - Powers of priesthood, Receive special grace for power to administer sacraments

M = Marriage - Uses Ephesians 5:31 which calls marriage a mystery, *Cannot be dissolved by any human power*

Marriage of a Catholic to a Protestant = Rules changed in 1983, Code of Canon Law

Mixed marriage requires a dispensation or marriage is invalid

Marriage by a non-Catholic minister requires a dispensation or marriage is invalid

Code of Canon Law, 1983 – *the Catholic party ... must promise to do all in his or her power to have all the children baptized and brought up in the Catholic church.*

EU = Extreme Unction - Anointing the sick, For the good of their souls and sometimes for their bodies

May be dead for a few hours

Miscellaneous

Sacramentals = Like Sacraments, but not instituted by Christ - They do confer sanctifying grace

Items or actions used with prayers to obtain favors = Sign of cross, rosaries, holy water, candles, etc.

Veneration = Between *respect* and *worship* - Venerate Mary and the saints (required to obtain salvation)

Mass (Worship) = Observe the priest more than participate, Sometimes only the priest is present

Doctrinal Deviations

593	Purgatory	1226	Adoration of the host	1600	Scapulars
754	Temporal Power	1229	Bible on Index of Forbidden Books		(wearing them saves people from hell)
1075	Mass clergy divorce forced	1302	Supreme power of pope	1854	Immaculate conception of Mary
1100	Money for masses		in church and state	1864	Separation of church & state condemned
1184	Inquisition	1415	Cup denied to laymen	1870	Papal infallibility
1190	Sale of indulgences	1545	Tradition given equal authority as Bible	1950	Assumption of Mary
1215	Transubstantiation	1545	Justification by faith alone condemned		(taken bodily into heaven - never died)

Closing Prayer

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