

Lutherans and Other Denominations

Anabaptists, Baptists and Adventists

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Anabaptists = Radicals of the Reformation

Ana means *again* = They re-baptized Christians
Must believe before you can be baptized = Infant baptism is not valid

Originated in Zurich in mid-1520's = Zwingli was church leader in Zurich (Luther's theses were posted in 1517)
Swiss Brethren = Disagreed with Zwingli over uniting church and state, led by Conrad Grebel
Governments worked closely with selected church = Persecuted for rejecting state church
Nicknamed Anabaptists by outsiders = Denied Scriptural validity of infant baptism

Schleitheim Confession of 1527 = Articles summarize Anabaptist beliefs

1. Believer's Baptism = Must have a personal confession to be baptized, Be baptized to join church
2. Ban = Live a disciplined life; Use excommunication to keep church pure
3. Eucharist is a memorial feast = Must be baptized to partake
4. Separation from evil = Avoid all evil and evil people - drinking, fighting, Catholics, etc
5. Pastoral duties
6. Separation of church and state = No voting, no public offices, no bearing arms, no violence
7. Oaths are forbidden = Jesus prohibited oath-swearing

Mennonites, Hutterites and Amish

Jacob Hutter gathered Anabaptists to live communally as in Acts 4:32-35 = Separated from society
Hutterites fled to Hungary and Ukraine = Hutter burned at stake as a heretic in 1536
Many moved to Dakotas & Canada in 1874 = Still keep separate, farm communally, shun society

1534-1535 - *New Jerusalem* in Munster, Germany = Anabaptists tried to force their beliefs throughout city
Revolutionaries in group led to labeling as radical = They were bloodily suppressed

Menno Simons (1492-1559) took up for Anabaptists = Catholic priest for 20 years, Re-baptized in 1536
Added sanity to this radical group, Organized scattered Anabaptists into congregations
Mennonites = Group named after Simons, Heavily persecuted, Many moved to America in 1600s

Jacob Amman began to enforce strict church discipline in 1693 = A Swiss Mennonite bishop
1 Corinthians 5:9-11 = Don't associate with brothers who are immoral, Avoid all immorality
Amish became separatist to stay moral - Also 2 Corinthians 6:14; 2 Corinthians 6:17; Romans 12:2
Strictly adhere to old customs = clothes, morals, language (Pennsylvania Dutch), etc

Mennonites are liberal compared to Amish = Very legalistic relative to other Protestants
Forbid items of luxury and worldly items = Women wear "devotional coverings"

Salvation - Justified by "spiritual" knowledge of Christ = Mystical union of believer with Christ

Christ is revealed inwardly, not through Scriptures or sacraments = Sacraments are simply reminders

Baptism = Public testimony of faith, By pouring

Lord's Supper = Meal of union and fellowship, Twice per year,

Typically preceded by foot washing and followed by "kiss of peace" = Sexes separated for these

Around 16 bodies = Differences concern practice rather than doctrine

Mennonite Church USA = Largest of several bodies, 100K US members (next largest has 45K in US)

Old Order Amish Church = Largest of several bodies, 100K US members (next largest has 9K in US)

Hutterian Brethren = Between Mennonites & Amish, 7000 members in Dakotas, Minn., Mont, Wash

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Lutherans and Other Denominations

Anabaptists, Baptists and Adventists

Page 2

Baptist History

Puritans - English Calvinists who wanted to purify the Anglican church from its “rags of popery”
Independents, or Congregationalists = Stayed within state church, each congregation manages itself
Separatists = Rejected and separated from state church, Bound selves to Christ and one another
Puritans persecuted in England, many fled to Holland, most radical (Pilgrims) fled to New England

John Smyth (1565-1612) led group of Separatists in Amsterdam = Met Mennonites, was converted and rebaptized
Tried to turn church into Mennonite = Some did, most saw threat to being English, excommunicated Smyth
1611 - Thomas Helwys led group back to England and formed the first English Baptist church

General Baptists - Arminian = General Atonement, Christ died to save all people
Particular Baptists - Calvinist = Christ died only to save a particular group of people – the elect

1638 - First American Baptist Church = Founded by Roger Williams in Providence, Rhode Island
1844 - Split at Civil War - American Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention

Baptist Doctrines

Bible - Inerrant = The ONLY source of doctrine
Salvation - By grace through faith, not works

Individual Religion = Nothing can intrude on one’s personal relationship with God, push for personal decisions
No authority of church or state, no creed, no sacrament, no pastor can stand between God & the individual
A step beyond congregationalism = Congregation is autonomous

Creeds - None = Since none are directly from the Bible, Conflicts with individualism
Wide diversity of teachings = Typically conservative in South, Many are extremely liberal
Most Baptists are Calvinists - Once saved, always saved = SBC is modified Calvinistic
Arminian influence grew in 1700s from George Whitefield = British revival preacher with Wesleys

Legalistic = Christianity is the "Life of Law", Church must be the "conscience of the state" (From Anabaptist ban)
No liquor, tobacco, playing on Sundays, dancing, card playing, movies
Separation of church & state is important = History of persecutions from not joining the state church

Baptism = A public declaration of faith (believer’s baptism), Baptism is only symbolic, Only some immerse
A deep, personal response to God = Usually *Born Again* by High School graduation
Must be old enough to decide for yourself = no infants, typically rebaptize those baptized as babies
Lord's Supper = Only symbolic

Baptist Bodies = Largest Protestant group in America, 32 million in 27 denominations, 92% in top 5

Southern Baptists = Largest and most aggressive group, 17 million members in US (Largest single Protestant denom)
Strictly legalistic = Keep body pure, Refuse to join other Protestants in interdenominational work
Major emphasis on mission and evangelism

Other White Baptists - American Baptist Churches (Northerns) - 1.5MM, Baptist Bible Fellowship - 1.5MM
Black Baptists - National Baptist Convention USA – 7.5MM, Nat. Baptist Convention of America - 3.5MM,
Progressive National Baptist Conv. - 2.5MM, National Missionary Baptist Conv. of America - 2.0MM

Lutherans and Other Denominations

Anabaptists, Baptists and Adventists

Page 3

Adventist History

William Miller (1792-1849) = New York Farmer turned Baptist minister
1816 - Became Baptist = Immediately dove into Scriptures, focussing on Daniel and Revelation
Predicted Christ's Second Coming in 1843-1844 = Calculated based on his translations of:
Daniel 8:13-14 = 2300 days until sanctuary would be reconsecrated (sanc. = earth)
Numbers 14:34 = 1 day equals 1 year
Between 50K and 100K from varied denominations joined movement = Called Millerites
The Great Disappointment - October 22, 1844
Made new prediction when that didn't occur = Most adventists left, Finally gave up on specific dates
1845 - American Millennial Association = Formed in New York by remnant adventists

Millennialism - Revelation 20:1-6

Premillennialism = Jesus will return to earth as a King to rule the earth in peace & blessedness for 1000 years
Rapture - 1 Thess. 4:16-17 = Christ will return invisibly to remove believers before tribulation
Great Tribulation = God's wrath will be poured out, Antichrist revealed, Israel will accept Christ
Millennial Kingdom = Jesus will rule 1000 years, Judge nations, fulfill prophecies, release & destroy Satan
Second Resurrection = God will judge, destroy death and hell, create new heaven and earth
Dispensationalism = Similar to Premillennialism but has seven eras ("dispensations"):
1 - Age of Eden up to Adam's fall = Paradise
2 - Age of conscience = From Adam's fall until flood, People ruled mostly by conscience
3 - Age of human government = From start of capital punishment (Gen 9:6) until Sodom destroyed
4 - Age of patriarchs = From Abraham until Pharaoh's army destroyed in the Red Sea
5 - Age of Moses = From Mount Sinai until Christ's crucifixion
6 - Age of Christianity = From Pentecost until Great Tribulation - nations judged & Antichrist destroyed
7 - Age of Manifestation = From rapture, through millennial reign, until Satan destroyed & Judgment
Postmillennialism = Christ's Second Coming occurs after the millennium instead of before it
Could be a literal period of peace, or symbolic of the triumph of the gospel
Amillennialism = Not a literal millennial rule of Christ on earth but symbolic of time from First to Second Comings
Continuous development of good and evil until Christ returns = Dead raised, then Judgment

LCMS on Millennialism (from *A Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod, 1932*)

We reject every type of millennialism. ... Scripture clearly teaches that:
The kingdom of Christ on earth will remain under the cross until the end of the world; that
(Acts 14:22; John 16:33; 18:36; Luke 9:23; 14:27; 17:20-37; 18:8; 2 Tim 4:18; Heb 12:28)
The second visible coming of the Lord will be His final advent, His coming to judge the quick and the dead; that
(Matthew 24:29, 30; 25:31; 2 Timothy 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Hebrews 9:26-28)
There will be but one resurrection of the dead; that
(John 5:28; 6:39, 40)
The time of the Last Day is, and will remain, unknown, which would not be the case if the Last Day were to come a thousand years after the beginning of a millennium; and that
(Matthew 24:42; 25:13; Mark 13:32, 37; Acts 1:7)
There will be no general conversion, a conversion en masse, of the Jewish nation,
(Romans 11:7; 2 Corinthians 3:14; Romans 11:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:16)
According to these clear passages of Scripture we reject the whole of Millennialism, since it not only contradicts Scripture, but also engenders a false conception of the kingdom of Christ, turns the hope of Christians upon earthly goals, and leads them to look upon the Bible as an obscure book.

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Lutherans and Other Denominations

Anabaptists, Baptists and Adventists

Page 4

Seventh Day Adventists

Largest of three main Adventist denominations = 1MM in US (15MM in world), next largest is 28K
 Ellen White = Had vision after Great Disappointment, Writings are authoritative to the church
 Various radical sects including Branch Davidians (Waco)
 Jehovah's Witness - Non-Christian cult formed from adventist movement (will cover in 2 weeks)

Premillennial return of Christ = visible and personal
 October 1844 - Christ's ministry in heaven moved from Holy Place to Most Holy Place
 Man becomes unconscious at death, will awaken when Christ returns

Seventh Day - Must worship on Saturday = Old Testament laws are still binding (inc. tithe), Confuse Law & Gospel

Anti-creedal = Bible only, Probably most extreme of all literalists
 Baptism - Only adults by immersion
 Lord's Supper - Preceded by foot washing

Human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit = Focus on healthy living - diet, exercise, philanthropy
 Strictly forbid alcohol, tobacco, drugs, unhealthy food = including pork & others mentioned in OT

Closing Prayer

