

15 Twentieth Century American Christianity

Christian Science (a.k.a. Church of Christ, Scientist) (85,000)

- 1866 - Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) experienced healing from back pain after studying the Gospels and devoted her life to studying healing
- 1875 - published findings in *Science and Health*
- early 20th century had major growth but declined towards the end

Evangelicals/Born Again Christians (similar to fundamentalists, but different focus)

- National Association of Evangelicals³⁵ defines an evangelical as someone who believes in
 - o The need for everyone to have a “born again” experience
 - o The engagement in missionary and social reform efforts
 - o The obedience to the Bible as ultimate authority
 - o Sacrifice of Christ on the cross as a central focus

Plymouth Brethren (1 million)

- 1827 meeting in Dublin, Ireland by John Nelson Darby (1800-1882)
- Father of dispensationalism including pre-tribulational rapture
 - o Dallas Theological Seminary’s Professor Dr. Chafer’s 1948 *Systematic Theology*
 - o C.I. Scofield Bible’s 1909 Study Bible
 - o E.W. Bullinger’s 1909 Companion Bible (finished in 1922)
 - o Hal Lindsey’s 1970 *Late Great Planet Earth* (a Dallas Theological Seminary graduate)
 - o Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins’ 1995 *Left Behind* 12-part series
- Met together in the name of the Lord without reference to a denomination
- 1831 - first meeting held in England at Plymouth; 1845 - assembly at Plymouth had 1,000 people
- Distinctives
 - o Avoidance of traditional symbols (no crosses, unembellished rooms, no stained glass)
 - o No membership, what matters is who is written in the Lamb’s book of life in heaven
 - o No clergy, but they have elders and sometimes support a “full-time worker”
 - o Weekly communion as a separate meeting from worship service (Quaker feel)

Pentecostals (279 million)

- Holiness Movement
 - o Asa Mahan (1799-1889), Charles Finney (1792-1875), Phoebe Palmer (1807-1874)
 - o 1881 - Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) founded (currently 1.2 million)
 - o 1895 - Church of the Nazarene founded (currently 2 million)
- Charles Parham (1873-1922), a holiness preacher, formulated the doctrine of “initial evidence”
 - o 1901 - During a service, a woman asked for prayer and the laying on hands to be filled with the holy spirit and started speaking in tongues.
- William Seymour (1870-1922)
 - o One of Parham’s students, an African American
 - o 1906 - Seymour went to LA and ignited the Azusa Street Revival, which lasted until 1915
 - o People came from all over to see/experience tongues, including Europe
- Fit in with Fundamentalists but rejected by them
- Did not like emphasis on rationalism that Fundamentalists had

³⁵ <https://www.nae.net/church-and-faith-partners/what-is-an-evangelical>

- 1913 - Debate over baptism in the name of Father, Son, and holy spirit or in the name of Jesus
- 1916 - Assemblies of God (65 million) adopted Trinitarian formula and evicted all who disagreed
- Oneness Pentecostalism (6 million)
 - o 1914 - Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (1.5 million)
 - o 1945 - United Pentecostal Church International (4 million)

1960-1980 - Jesus Movement or perhaps a 4th Great Awakening³⁶

- Jesus Movement
 - o Hippie counterculture movement (called “Jesus People” or “Jesus Freaks”)
 - o Restorationist theology
 - Wanted to return to lifestyle of early Christians; viewed churches as apostate; return to simple living; belief in miracles, healing, faith, prayer
 - o Strong evangelism and millennialism
 - o Music and music festivals were a huge part of the movement
 - o 1972 - week-long gathering in Dallas, TX attracted 80,000 young people
- Other events and trends during this period include
 - o Mainline Protestant churches lost members and influence while conservative denominations like Southern Baptists and Missouri Synod Lutherans grew
 - o Emphasis on a personal relationship with Jesus
 - o Rise of mega churches; growth of parachurch organizations
 - o Rise of the religious right, political force of conservative Christians
 - o Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968), Billy Graham (1918-?), and Pope John Paul II (1920-2005; became pope in 1978)
 - o Growth of non-denominational churches
- Nondenominational evangelicalism (80 million)
 - **Calvary Chapel (25 million)** in 1,000 congregations worldwide
 - o 1965 - Chuck Smith (1927-2013) became pastor of 25 person Foursquare Gospel Church
 - o 1969 - Calvary Chapel became hub of the Jesus Movement
 - o Lonnie Frisbee (1949-1993) joined and coordinated outreach on the beaches
 - o Music was very important (Maranatha Music)
 - o Doctrines
 - Say they stand the middle ground between fundamentalism and Pentecostalism
 - Accept spiritual gifts; Arminian orientation
 - Pretribulationist (dispensational, Darby/Scofield)
 - o Distinctives
 - Expository preaching (verse-by-verse rather than by topic)
 - Agree w/ Pentecostals about 2nd experience of spirit baptism after conversion
 - Believes in gifts of the spirit, but does not allow uninterpreted tongues
 - Strong leadership, “Moses Model” where senior pastors are not challenged
 - **Association of Vineyard Churches (15 million)**
 - o 1975 - Kenn Gulliksen started Vineyard in Hollywood
 - o 1982 - John Wimber took over
 - o Low-key, low-pressure, “come as you are” environment, casual clothing
 - o No membership records or procedures; decentralized organization of local churches

³⁶ The first was 1731-1755 with Johnathon Edwards and George Whitefield; the second was 1790-1840 with camp meetings and revival preachers like Barton Stone and Charles Finney; the third was allegedly 1850-1900 with missionary societies forming and the social gospel movement spreading

- 1994 - Toronto Blessing (disorderly manifestations of the holy spirit)
- **Christian Missionary Alliance** (4 million)
 - 1887 - Rev. Albert Simpson, a Presbyterian clergyman, started it as a missionary society
 - 1919 - Simpson's death precipitated the moving away from Pentecostalism
 - Rejection of tongues as necessary indicator of being filled w/ holy spirit
 - 1965 - churches adopted an established statement of faith and became a denomination
 - Typical evangelical beliefs
 - Prominent people influenced by C&MA
- **Way International** (unknown membership)
 - a non-denomination; Joyful Noise traveled performing underneath giant tents
 - 1941 - Victor Paul Wierwille (1916-1985) ordained by Evangelical and Reformed Church
 - 1947 - The Chimes Hour Youth Caravan on radio; 1955 incorporated as "The Way"
 - Restorationist: claimed God spoke to him audibly that He would teach him the Word of God rightly divided as it had not been known since the first century
 - Classes: strong orientation towards manifesting holy spirit (influence by J.E. Stiles of Assemblies of God and E.W. Bullinger the ultra-dispensationalist)
 - 1970-1995 - The Rock of Ages Festival (5,000 to 20,000 attended)
 - Distinctive doctrines
 - all Christians can and should speak in tongues; biblical unitarian (1975 *Jesus Christ Is Not God*); sleep of the dead until 2nd coming; believe spirit baptism replaced water; once saved - always saved; prosperity of all "believers"
 - Mark and avoid: people in the Way shun someone marked by leadership
 - Should be completely debt free (including car loans, mortgages, school loans)

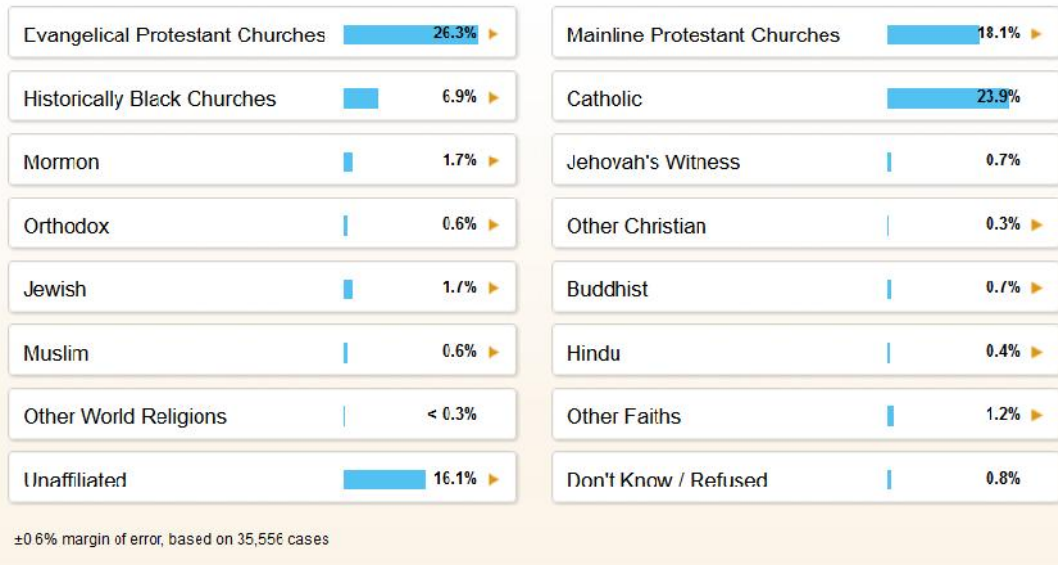
1990s-2000s Culture Wars

- 1991 - James Davison Hunter published *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America*
- Hot-button issues polarized along ideology, not religion, ethnicity, class, or political affiliation
 - Issues included abortion, gun politics, separation of church and state, privacy, recreational drug use, homosexuality, and censorship
- Pat Buchanan, ran (and lost) the Republican presidential nomination (to George H.W. Bush) said, "The agenda that Clinton and Clinton would impose on America—abortion on demand, a litmus test for the Supreme Court, homosexual rights, discrimination against religious schools, women in combat—that's change, all right. But it is not the kind of change America wants. It is not the kind of change America needs. And it is not the kind of change we can tolerate in a nation that we still call God's country."
- Especially w/ election of George W. Bush, evangelicals came to be seen as a critical political force

Other 20th Century Groups

- These groups had varying levels of influence in America during the 20th century
- **Worldwide Church of God/ Grace Communion International** (42,000)
 - 1931 - Armstrong ordained by Church of God (Seventh-Day), an Adventist group
 - 1934 - Herbert W. Armstrong founded radio ministry, *Radio Church of God*
 - 1956 - Armstrong published *1975 in Prophecy!*, a booklet predicting the future
 - 1968 - Church official named Worldwide Church of God
 - Distinctive doctrines (under Armstrong)
 - Adventist: sleep of the dead, return of Christ to establish Kingdom on earth
 - Restorationism; only true Church; Sabbatarian, Law of Moses

- Authoritarian, pastors announce someone disfellowshipped during a service
 - People had to pay 3 tithes
 - British Israelism: white Anglo-Saxon peoples of USA, UK, and Western Europe were the descendants of the lost ten tribes of Israel
 - 1986 - Denomination's doctrines changed to be compatible w/ evangelicalism
- **Scientology** (between 100,000 and 8 million)
 - 1953 - Science Fiction author L.Ron Hubbard (1911-1986) founded Church of Scientology
 - 1955 - Hubbard launched "Project Celebrity," making a list of 63 famous people
 - Beliefs
 - People are immortal beings who have forgotten their true nature
 - Need spiritual rehabilitation (called auditing) to re-experience painful events of past to free themselves of ongoing effects
 - Charge a fee for study materials and auditing sessions
- **Moonies/Unification Church**
 - 1954 - Sun Myung Moon (1920-2012) founded group in South Korea
 - 1966 - *Divine Principle* published, held at status of Scripture
 - Beliefs
 - Communication w/ spirits of the deceased
 - Spirits can return to earth and cooperate w/ living people to expiate for sins
 - Moon is the second coming of Christ; he and his wife Hak Ja Han are the true family—the parents of humankind
- **Megachurches** (1,300 in the US; 50 of them exceed 10,000 in weekly attendance)
 - Typically a Protestant church having 2,000 or more people in average weekend
 - There are 3,000 Catholic churches that have 2,000 or more
 - Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California (12 sites)
 - Rick Warren (Southern Baptist); 38,789 members with 22,055 weekly
 - LifeChurch.tv in Edmond, OK (15 sites)
 - Craig Groeschel (Evangelical Covenant Church); 41,000 weekly attendance
 - Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas (1 site)
 - Joel Osteen (Non-denominational); 43,500 weekly attendance
 - Criticisms: steal people from smaller churches; too much focus on entertainment; corporate business models; millions of dollars of revenue but are tax exempt



Timeline Dates for 500

Lecture 1: Introduction

1377 John Wycliffe's teachings denounced by pope
1415 Jan Hus burned at the stake
1439 Johannes Gutenberg invents movable type
1516 Desiderius Erasmus publishes Greek New Testament

Lecture 2: Luther & Calvin

1505 Martin Luther becomes a monk
1517 Luther posts 95 theses on Wittenberg church door
1524-5 Peasants War
1536 John Calvin publishes *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
1541 John Calvin returns to Geneva

Lecture 3: Zwingli & the Swiss Brethren

1519 Ulrich Zwingli begins Reformation in Zurich
1529 Zwingli and Luther part ways over communion
1523 Conrad Grebel broke with Zwingli
1525 Founding of first Anabaptist house church
1527 Felix Manz martyred by Protestants
1529 George Blaurock burned at the stake

Lecture 4: Sattler, Münster, & Simons

1527 Schleitheim Confession
1527 Michael Sattler burned at the stake
1535 Münster captured
1537 Menno Simons became an Anabaptist
1544 Anabaptists in Netherlands called Mennonites
1569 Dirk Willems rescues pursuer

Lecture 5: Unitarian Trailblazers

1535 Claude of Savoy tries to convert Luther to monotheism
1552 Adam Pastor debates Simons on deity of Christ
1553 Michael Servetus burned at the stake for disbelieving the Trinity

Lecture 6: The Socinian Movement

1565 Peter Gonesius founds Polish Brethren
1579 Fausto Sozzini joins Polish Brethren
1605 Racovian Catechism published
1658 Polish Brethren expelled
1668 Andreas Wiszowaty publishes *Library of Polish Brethren Called Unitarians*
1568 Ferenc David founds Unitarian Church of Transylvania

Lecture 7: Reformations on the Continent

1530 Augsburg Confession by Melancthon
1555 Peace of Augsburg: prince determines religion
1572 Huguenots massacred in Paris
1598 Edict of Nantes tolerates Huguenots
1685 Edict of Fontainebleau outlaws Huguenots
1787 Edict of Versailles allows religious toleration in France
1618-1648 Thirty Years' War

Lecture 8: Christianity in East Asia

1549 Francis Xavier brings Christianity to Japan
1582 Missionary Matteo Ricci arrives in China
1597 Persecution of Japanese Christians begins
1850-1864 Taiping Rebellion in China
1853 Missionary Hudson Taylor arrives in China
1895 Emperor Meiji allows religious freedom in Japan
1897-190 Boxer Rebellion in China, Christians persecuted
1967-1977 Cultural Revolution in China, Christians persecuted.

Lecture 9: Reformations in Britain

1525 William Tyndales' New Testament
1534 Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy
1549 Edward's Book of Common Prayer
1560 Scotland adopts Calvinism
1563 Elizabeth's 39 Articles
1603 Jacobus Arminius at University of Leiden
1611 James authorizes revision of Bishop's Bible
1646 Westminster Confession
1689 Toleration Act of England (excludes non-trinitarians)

Lecture 10: Dissidents in Britain

1609 John Smyth founds Baptists in Amsterdam
 1650 George Fox called a Quaker
 1654 John Biddle publishes *Twofold Catechism*
 1687-1702 Socinian Controversy in England
 1697 Blasphemy Act excludes English Unitarians
 1712 Samuel Clarke publishes *The Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity*
 1773 Theophilus Linsey establishes Unitarian church in London

Lecture 11: Catholicism

1534 Ignatius of Loyola starts Jesuits
 1545 Counter-Reformation Council of Trent begins
 1804 Pope Pius VII crowned Napoleon emperor
 1854 Pope Pius IX dogmatized Mary's Immaculate Conception
 1869 First Vatican Council proclaims papal infallibility
 1929 Benito Mussolini declared Vatican sovereign nation
 1950 Pope Pius XII asserts Assumption of Mary
 1962 Second Vatican Council allows vernacular mass
 1971 Gustavo Gutierrez coins Liberation Theology

Lecture 12: Colonials & Methodists

1607 Virginia founded as first English colony
 1620 Plymouth settled by Brownist Separatists
 1639 Roger Williams founds first Baptist church
 1692 Salem Witch Trials
 1738 John Wesley has conversion experience
 1740 George Whitefield tours the Colonies preaching
 1791 Bill of Rights grants religious freedom

Lecture 13: Losing Faith

1777 David Hume argues against Christianity
 1785 King's Chapel in Boston gets first unitarian minister
 1835 D.F. Strauss publishes *Life of Jesus Critically Examined*
 1859 Charles Darwin's theory of evolution
 1878 Julius Wellhausen's Documentary Hypothesis
 1910 Fundamentalist Movement begins
 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial in Tennessee

Lecture 14: Missionaries & Adventists

1732 Moravians begin missionary work
 1792 William Carey urges conversion of the heathens
 1801 Cane Ridge Revival (Second Great Awakening)
 1830 Joseph Smith published *Book of Mormon*
 1845 Albany, NY meeting initiates Adventist movement
 1886 Student Volunteer Movement founded
 1942 Wycliffe Bible Translators founded

Lecture 15: 20th c. American Christianity

1831 John Nelson Darby founds Plymouth Brethren (dispensationalism)
 1837 Phoebe Palmer founds holiness movement
 1879 Mary Baker Eddy founds first Christian Science church in Boston
 1887 Albert Simpson founded Christian and Missionary Alliance
 1909 C.I. Scofield's Reference Bible promotes dispensationalism
 1922 E.W. Bullinger's Companion Bible promotes dispensationalism
 1906 William Seymour initiates Pentecostalism at Azusa Street Revival
 1916 Assemblies of God founded
 1941 InterVarsity Fellowship begins in the US
 1945 United Pentecostal Church founded (oneness)
 1950 Billy Graham Evangelistic Association founded
 1951 Campus Crusade for Christ founded
 1953 L. Ron Hubbard founded Church of Scientology
 1954 Sun Myung Moon founded Unification Church (Moonies)
 1955 Victor Wierwille founds The Way
 1960-1980 Jesus Movement and awakening
 1963 Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream"
 1965 Chuck Smith founds Calvary Chapel
 1968 Herbert W. Armstrong founded Worldwide Church of God
 1973 Roe vs. Wade legalized abortion
 1975 Kenn Gulliksen founded Vineyard Movement

1977 James Dobson founds Focus on the Family
1979 Pope John Paul II sparked Solidarity
movement in Poland

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