

I'm not a robot















[illegible]



one another.[97][98] The Amish, Hutterites, and Mennonites are direct descendants of the movement. Schwarzenau Brethren, Bruderhof, and the Apostolic Christian Church are considered later developments among the Anabaptists. The name Anabaptist, meaning "one who baptizes again", was given to them by their persecutors in reference to the fact they were baptized as infants in infancy, but refused baptism again as adults, claiming that infant baptism was invalid. Baptists, on the other hand, believe that baptism is valid only if performed by immersion after one has reached the mature age of understanding. As a result of their views on the nature of baptism and other issues, Anabaptists were heavily persecuted during the 16th century and into the 17th by both Magisterial Protestants and Catholics. While most Anabaptists adhered to a literal interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount, which precluded taking oaths, participating in military actions, and participating in civil government, some who practiced re-baptism felt otherwise.[10] They were thus technically Anabaptists, even though conservative Amish, Mennonites, and Hutterites and some historians tend to consider them as outside of true Anabaptism. Anabaptist reformers of the Radical Reformation are divided into Radical and the so-called Second Form. Some important Radical Reformation theologians were John of Leiden, Thomas Müntzer, Kaspar Schwenkfeld, Sebastian Franck, Menno Simons. Second Form Reformers included Hans Denck, Conrad Grebel, Balthasar Hubmaier and Felix Manz. Many Anabaptists today still use the Ausbund, which is the oldest hymnal still in continuous use. Main article: Anglicanism Thomas Cranmer, one of the most influential figures in shaping Anglican theology and self-identity Anglicanism consists of the Church of England and churches which are historically tied to it or hold similar beliefs, worship practices and church structures.[100] The word Anglican originates in eclesiae anglicanae, a medieval Latin phrase dating at least 1246 that means the English Church. There is no single "Anglican Church" with universal juridical authority, since each national or regional church has full autonomy. As the name suggests, the communion is an association of churches in full communion with the archbishop of Canterbury. The great majority of Anglicans are members of churches which are part of the international Anglican Communion,[101] which has 85 million adherents.[102] The Church of England declared its independence from the Catholic Church at the time of the Elizabethan Reformation in 1534 and the subsequent English Reformation in the late 16th century. The doctrine of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is a distinctive doctrinal position shared by many Protestant denominations, namely Lutheranism and Calvinism.[104] By the end of the century, the retention in Anglicanism of many traditional liturgical forms and of the episcopate was already seen as unacceptable by those promoting the most developed Protestant principles. Unlike to Anglicanism is the Book of Common Prayer, the collection of services that worshippers in most Anglican churches used for centuries. While it has since undergone many revisions and Anglican churches in different countries have developed other service books, the Book of Common Prayer is still acknowledged as one of the ties that bind the Anglican Communion together. Main article: Baptists Baptists subscribe to a doctrine that baptism should be performed only for professing believers. Baptists subscribe to a doctrine that baptism should be performed only for professing believers (believer's baptism, as opposed to infant baptism), and that it must be done by complete immersion (as opposed to affusion or sprinkling). Also claiming that infant baptisms are false due to the infant's lack of understanding of virtues and sins, making them not able (according to Baptists) to confess their faith. Which also regarded their lack of being able to speak at such a young age, compared to adults[105] Other tenets of Baptist churches include soul competency (liberty), salvation through faith alone, Scripture alone as the rule of faith and practice, and the autonomy of the local congregation. Baptists recognize two ministerial offices, pastors and deacons. Baptist churches are widely considered to be Protestant churches, though some Baptists disavow this identity.[106] Diverse from their beginning, those identifying as Baptists today differ widely from one another in what they believe, how they worship, their attitudes toward other Christians, and their understanding of what is important in Christian discipleship.[107] The separation of Church and state is also a huge belief of anabaptists. They have strongly supported this because they believe its a Biblical concept to follow, and they were persecuted for their beliefs. In the early days of the American Revolution, the United States Congress passed the Bill of Rights in 1791, guaranteeing freedom of religion. This led to the growth of various religious groups, including Baptists. [109] Historians trace the earliest church labeled Baptist back to 1609 in Amsterdam, with English Separatist John Smyth as its pastor.[110] Baptist practice spread to England, where the General Baptists considered Christ's atonement to extend to all people, while the Particular Baptists believed that it extended only to the elect. In 1638, Roger Williams established the first Baptist congregation in the North American colonies. In the mid-18th century, the First Great Awakening increased Baptist growth in both New England and the South.[111] The Second Great Awakening in the South in the early 19th century increased church membership, as did the preachers' lessening of support for abolition and manumission of slavery, which had been part of the 18th-century teachings. Baptist missionaries have spread their church to every continent.[112] The Baptist World Alliance reports more than 41 million members in more than 150,000 congregations.[113] In 2002, there were over 100 million Baptists and Baptist group members worldwide and over 33 million in North America.[112] The largest Baptist association is the Southern Baptist Convention, with the membership of associated churches totaling more than 14 million.[114] Main article: Reformed Christianity John Calvin's theological thought influenced a variety of Congregational, Continental Reformed, United, Presbyterian, and other Reformed churches. Calvinism, also called the Reformed tradition, was advanced by several theologians such as Martin Bucer, Heinrich Bullinger, Peter Martyr Vermigli, and Hudrych Zwingli, but this branch of Christianity bears the name of the French reformer John Calvin because of his prominent influence on it and because of his role in confession and ecclesiastical matters throughout the Reformation period. Calvinism was also known as the Reformed Church of Geneva, the Reformed Church of France, and the Reformed Church of Scotland. However, the term Reformed Calvin was an early aberration. Less commonly, it can refer to the particular brand of Calvinist theology which became dominant in the 19th century. A brief history of Calvinism is contained in the five points of Calvinism, although these points identify the Calvinist view of soteriology rather than summarizing the system as a whole. Broadly speaking, Calvinism stresses the sovereignty or rule of God in all things, His eternal predestination, and His unconditional election and salvation based on all of life. This concept was clearly in the doctrines of predestination and total depravity. The biggest Reformed association is the World Communion of Reformed Churches with more than 80 million members in 211 member denominations around the world.[115][116] There are more conservative Reformed federations like the World Reformed Fellowship and the International Conference of Reformed Churches, as well as independent churches. Hussitism follows the teachings of Czech reformer Jan Hus, who became the best-known representative of the Bohemian Reformation and one of the forerunners of the Protestant Reformation. An early hymnal was the hand-written Jistebske hymn book. This predominantly religious movement was propelled by social issues and strengthened Czech national awareness. Among present-day Christians, Hussite traditions are represented in the Moravian Church, Unity of the Brethren and the Czechoslovak Hussite Church.[117] Main article: Lutheranism Luther's rose seal, a symbol of Lutheranism Lutheranism identifies with the theology of Martin Luther. It advocates a doctrine of justification "by grace alone through faith alone on the basis of Scripture alone", the doctrine that scripture is the final authority on all matters of faith, rejecting the assertion made by Catholic leaders at the Council of Trent that authority comes from both Scriptures and Tradition.[118] In addition, Lutherans accept the teachings of the first four ecumenical councils of the undivided Christian Church.[119][120] Unlike the Reformed tradition, Lutherans retain many of the liturgical practices and sacramental teachings of the pre-Reformation Church, with an emphasis on the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper. Lutheran theology differs from Reformed theology in its view of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, and the nature of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The Lutheran World Federation, the largest global communion of Lutheran churches represents over 72 million people.[122] Both of these figures miscount Lutherans worldwide as many members of more generically Protestant LWF member church bodies do not self-identify as Lutheran or attend congregations that self-identify as Lutheran.[123] Additionally, there are other international organizations such as the Global Confessional and Missional Lutheran Forum, International Lutheran Church and the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, as well as Lutheran denominations that are not necessarily a member of an international organization. Main article: Methodism John Wesley, founder of Methodism, preaching in the open air Methodism identifies principally with the theology of John Wesley. This evangelical movement originated as a revival within the 18th-century Church of England and became a separate Church following Wesley's death. Because of vigorous missionary activity, the movement spread throughout the British Empire, the United States, and beyond, today claiming approximately 80 million adherents worldwide.[124] Originally it appealed especially to laborers and slaves. Soteriologically, most Methodists are Arminian, emphasizing that Christ accomplished salvation for every human being, and that humans must exercise an act of the will to receive it (as opposed to the traditional Calvinist doctrine of monergism). Methodism is traditionally low church in liturgy, although this varies greatly between individual congregations; the Wesleys themselves greatly valued the Anglican liturgy and tradition. Methodism is known for its rich musical tradition: John Wesley's brother, Charles, was instrumental in writing much of the hymnody of the Methodist Church.[125] and many other eminent hymn writers come from the Methodist tradition. The Holiness movement refers to a set of practices surrounding the doctrine of Christian perfection that emerged within 19th-century Methodism, along with a number of evangelical denominations including the Pentecostals, the Nazarenes, the Salvation Army, and the Wesleyan Church. The Holiness movement is often described as a continuation of the Wesleyan movement, and is sometimes referred to as Wesleyan holiness. The Holiness movement is closely related to the mainline Methodism, e.g. the United Methodist Church.[126] Main article: Pentecostalism Charles Fox Parham, who associated glossolalia with the baptism in the Holy Spirit Pentecostalism is a movement that places special emphasis on a direct personal experience of God through the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The term Pentecostal is derived from Pentecost, the Greek name for the Jewish Feast of Weeks. For Christians, this event commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus Christ, as described in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. This branch of Protestantism is distinguished by belief in the baptism with the Holy Spirit as an experience separate from conversion that enables a Christian to live a life empowered by and filled with the Holy Spirit. This empowerment includes the use of spiritual gifts such as speaking in tongues and divine healing—two other defining characteristics of Pentecostalism. Because of their commitment to biblical authority, spiritual gifts, and the miraculous, Pentecostals tend to see their movement as reflecting the same kind of spiritual power and teachings that were found in the Apostolic Age of the early church. For this reason, some Pentecostals also use the term Apostolic or Full Gospel to describe their movement. Pentecostalism eventually spawned hundreds of new denominations, including large groups such as the Assemblies of God and the Church of God in Christ, both in the United States and elsewhere. There are over 279 million Pentecostals worldwide, and the movement is growing in many parts of the world, especially the global South. Since the 1960s, Pentecostalism has increasingly gained acceptance from other Christian traditions, and Pentecostal churches concerning Spirit baptism and spiritual gifts have been traced to ancient times in Protestant and Catholic churches through the Charismatic Movement. Together, Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity numbers over 500 million adherents.[128] Plymouth Brethren are a conservative, low-church, evangelical denomination with a history that began in Dublin in the 1820s, originating from Anglo-American Pietism. Their emphasis on the importance of the Bible, the primacy of the Holy Spirit, and the centrality of the church as a collective fellowship, or network of overlapping circles of individuals, formed the foundation of the movement. Although the group suffered for many years to take any denominational name to itself—a stance that some of them still maintain—the title The Brethren, is one that many of their members are comfortable with in that the Bible designates all believers as brethren. The Presbyterian Church was born out of the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century. John Calvin was the main contributor for creating a different but special type of church administration that stuck to the New Testament notion of "presbyter" or elder to appoint leadership. The Presbyterian Church's presbyter-leadership made it possible to have either a "teaching presbyter" (teaching elder) who was an ordained minister or a "ruling presbyter" (ruling elder) who was a layman. One of the features of the Presbyterian, compared to other denominations in Christianity, was the belief of only two Sacraments: communion and baptism. In 1835, the congregation of the Greyfriars Church in Glasgow, Scotland made the decision to dispatch a missionary to the colony of Trinidad to minister to the Scottish planters, their families, and the Africans who were present in that area. On January 31, 1836, Reverend Alexander Kennedy steep foot in Trinidad to start the Presbyterian vision in Port of Spain. The work of the Scottish Presbyterians became widespread throughout San Fernando, Arouca, and Sangre Grande. By 1843, the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America had also generated a mission in Trinidad. These American Presbyterians took the evangelization challenge at Iere Village with a congregation including mostly Africans who worked in the surrounding sugar grounds.[131] George Fox was an English dissenter and a founder of the Religious Society of Friends, the Quakers. He was a member of the Puritan movement in England, and he was a vocal critic of the Church of England. He believed that the Bible was the only source of religious truth, and he rejected the authority of the clergy and the sacraments. He taught that all people were equal before God, and that they should live lives of simplicity and peace. He founded the Quaker movement, which grew rapidly in England and spread to other parts of the world. He is remembered for his writings, particularly his autobiography, and for his role in the development of the Quaker faith. They include those with evangelical, holiness, liberal, and traditional conservative Quaker understandings of Christianity. Unlike many other groups that emerged within Christianity, the Religious Society of Friends has actively tried to avoid creeds and hierarchical structures.[134] Main article: List of Christian denominations § Protestant There are many other Protestant denominations that do not fit neatly into the mentioned branches, and are far smaller in membership. Some groups of individuals who hold basic Protestant tenets identify themselves simply as "Christians" or "born-again Christians". They typically distance themselves from the confessionalism or creedalism of other Christian communities[135] by calling themselves "non-denominational" or "evangelical". Often founded by individual pastors, they have little affiliation with historic denominations.[136] Although Unitarianism developed from the Protestant Reformation,[137] it is excluded from Protestantism due to its Nontrinitarian theological nature.[29][138] Unitarianism has been popular in the region of Transylvania within today's Romania, England, and the United States.[29] It originated almost simultaneously in Transylvania and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Spiritual Christianity is the group of Russian movements (Doukhobors and others), so-called folk Protestants. Their origins are varied: some were influenced by western Protestants, others from disgust of the behavior of official Orthodox priests.[139][140] Messianic Judaism is a movement of the Jews and non-Jews, which arose in the 1960s within Evangelical Protestantism and absorbed elements of the messianic traditions in Judaism.[141] An Indonesian Reformed Evangelical Church megachurch There are also Christian movements which cross denominational lines and even branches, and cannot be classified on the same level previously mentioned forms. Evangelicalism is a prominent example. Some of those movements are active exclusively within Protestantism, some are Christian-wide. Transdenominational movements are people that are mainly active in the Evangelical movement, but also have connections to other denominations. Examples of transdenominational movements are the Charismatic Renewal, which aims to bring about a renewal of the church, and the Vineyard movement, which aims to bring about a renewal of the charismatic Christianity (so-called Renewalists), along with Pentecostals. Nondenominational churches and various house churches often adopt, or are akin to one of these movements. Megachurches are usually influenced by interdenominational movements. Globally, these large congregations are a significant development in Protestant Christianity. In the United States, the phenomenon has more than quadrupled in the past two decades.[142] It has since spread worldwide. The chart below shows the mutual relations and historical origins of the main interdenominational movements and other developments within Protestantism. Links between interdenominational movements and other developments within Protestantism Main article: Evangelicalism Billy Graham, a prominent evangelical revivalist, preaching in Duisburg, Germany, in 1954 Evangelicalism, or evangelical Protestantism,[6] is a worldwide, transdenominational movement which maintains that the essence of the gospel consists in the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ's atonement.[143][144] Evangelicals are Christians who believe in the centrality of the conversion or "born again" experience in receiving salvation, believe in the