

Founding of other Christian Churches

### **Churches, Founders, And The Year they were Founded**

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The Catholic Church, 1st Century AD, (No human Founder, was founded by Christ).

Lutheran Church, founded by Martin Luther, October 31, 1517.

The Anglican Communion, founded by King Henry VIII in 1534 AD.

Calvinist Churches, founders are: Huldreich Zwingli, John Calvin etc, in 1536AD.

The Presbyterian Church, founded by John Knox in 1560AD.

The Baptist Churches, founded by John Smyth and Thomas Helwys in 1606AD

The Methodist Churches, founded by John and Charles Wesley in 1784 AD

The Protestant Episcopal Church, founded by Samuel Seabury in 1789AD.

The Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), founded by Joseph Smith in April 6, 1830.

The Adventist Churches, founded by William Miller, in the 1840s AD

The Salvation Army, founded by William Booth in 1865 AD.

Christian Science (The Church Of Christ Scientist) founded by Mrs Mary Eddy Baker in 1879AD.

The Jehovah witness, founded by Charles Taze Russel in 1896AD

The Pentecostal Churches: I will mention few of them here in Africa:

Cherubim and Seraphim, founded by Moses Orimolade Tunolase in 1925.

Christ Apostolic Church, founded by Joseph Ayo Babalola in 1931.

Redeemed Christian Church of God, founded by Rev Josiah Akindayomi in 1952.

Living Faith Church Worldwide, founded by David Oyedepo in 1981.

Deeper Christian Life Ministry, founded by William Kumuyi in 1982.

Mountain of Fire and Miracles, founded by Dr. Daniel Olukoya in 1989.

Christ Embassy, founded by Chris Oyakhilome in 1990.

The Lord's Chosen, founded by Lazarus Muoka in 2002.

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For 1500 years, the Catholic Church existed alone as the only Church. But just between 1517 to 2019, which is exactly 502 years, we have countless churches.

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Here are some **key differences among Christian churches**:

- **Doctrine and Beliefs:** Different denominations emphasize various aspects of Christian doctrine, such as the role of the Trinity, salvation, and sacraments. For example, Pentecostals may focus more on the Holy Spirit, while Catholics integrate the Trinity into their sacraments.
- **Worship Practices:** Worship styles can vary significantly, from liturgical services in Catholic and Orthodox churches to more informal worship in Evangelical and Pentecostal congregations.
- **Church Structure:** Denominations differ in their governance and organizational structures. For instance, Catholics have a hierarchical structure led by the Pope, while many Protestant denominations operate with a congregational or presbyterian model.
- **Rituals and Sacraments:** The number and significance of sacraments vary; for example, Catholics recognize seven sacraments, while many Protestant denominations may only observe two (baptism and communion).
- **Historical Context:** The differences among denominations often arose from historical events, theological disputes, and cultural contexts, leading to the formation of separate churches and practices.

These differences contribute to the rich diversity within Christianity, reflecting various interpretations and expressions of faith.

Different Christian denominations are organized and worship in different ways. This handy list will help you keep track of and compare some differences in worship, rituals, and beliefs of the largest groups of the Christian Church.

### **Anglican/ Episcopalian**

- **Means of salvation:** God's grace by faith alone
- **How they worship:** Traditional style through liturgy; contemporary liturgy is possible

- **Sacraments and ordinances observed:** Baptism, Lord's Supper (Regard the other five that Catholics observe as "minor sacraments")
- **Organization:** Episcopal (Clergy in local churches presided over by bishop.)
- **Ordain women:** Yes
- **Who can be baptized?** Infants and professing Christians

#### **Assembly of God**

- **Means of salvation:** God's grace by faith alone
- **How they worship:** Non-liturgical (free) worship; sometimes contemporary
- **Sacraments and ordinances observed:** Baptism, Lord's Supper
- **Organization:** Mixture of Congregational and Presbyterian (Local churches largely govern themselves, but don't have complete autonomy.)
- **Ordain women:** Yes
- **Who can be baptized?** Only professing Christians

#### **Baptist**

- **Means of salvation:** God's grace by faith alone
- **How they worship:** Non-liturgical (free) worship; sometimes contemporary
- **Sacraments and ordinances observed:** Baptism, Lord's Supper
- **Organization:** Congregational (Local churches are self-governing.)
- **Ordain women:** Depending on the convention (division of churches)
- **Who can be baptized?** Only professing Christians

#### **Catholic**

- **Means of salvation:** God's grace, which Christians receive by faith and by observing the sacraments
- **How they worship:** Traditional style through liturgy; contemporary liturgy is possible
- **Sacraments and ordinances observed:** Baptism, Eucharist (Lord's Supper), Penance, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick

- **Organization:** Papal/Episcopal (Clergy in local churches presided over by bishop; the *pope* [the Bishop of Rome] is the ultimate Church leader.)
- **Ordain women:** No
- **Who can be baptized?** Infants and professing Christians

### Lutheran

- **Means of salvation:** God's grace by faith alone
- **How they worship:** Traditional style through liturgy; contemporary worship is possible
- **Sacraments and ordinances observed:** Baptism, Lord's Supper
- **Organization:** Mixed (Congregational, Presbyterian, and Episcopal structures exist.)
- **Ordain women:** Depending on the synod (council)
- **Who can be baptized?** Infants and professing Christians

### Methodist

- **Means of salvation:** God's grace by faith alone
- **How they worship:** Traditional style through liturgy; contemporary worship is possible
- **Sacraments and ordinances observed:** Baptism, Lord's Supper
- **Organization:** Episcopal (Clergy in local churches presided over by bishop.)
- **Ordain women:** Yes
- **Who can be baptized?** Infants and professing Christians

### Orthodox

- **Means of salvation:** God's grace received through faith and on-going participation in the work of one's salvation
- **How they worship:** Traditional style through liturgy
- **Sacraments and ordinances observed:** No official position, but often observes the Catholic sacraments
- **Organization:** Episcopal (Clergy in local churches presided over by bishop.)

- **Ordain women:** No
- **Who can be baptized?** Infants and professing Christians

### **Presbyterian**

- **Means of salvation:** God's grace by faith alone
- **How they worship:** Traditional style through liturgy
- **Sacraments and ordinances observed:** Baptism, Lord's Supper
- **Organization:** Presbyterian (A graded organizational system by presbyters or elders.)
- **Ordain women:** Yes
- **Who can be baptized?** Infants and professing Christians