Church Newsletter

Church, in Christian doctrine, the Christian religious community as a whole, or a body or organization of Christian believers



Apostolic Age (30–100 AD). From the Apostles to the Council of Nicaea (100–325)

The apostolic period extends from the Day of Pentecost to the death of the Apostle John, and covers about seventy years, from A.D. 30 to about 100. The field of action is Palestine, and gradually extends over Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy. The most prominent centres are Jerusalem, Antioch, and Rome, which represent respectively the mother churches of Jewish, Gentile, and United Catholic Christianity.

The church of this period appears poor in earthly possessions and honors, but rich in heavenly grace, in world-conquering faith, love, and hope; unpopular, even outlawed, hated, and persecuted, yet far more vigorous and expansive than the philosophies of Greece or the empire of Rome composed chiefly of persons of the lower social ranks, yet attracting the noblest and deepest minds of the age, and bearing in her bosom the hope of the world; "as unknown, yet well-known, as dying, and behold it lives;" conquering by apparent defeat, and growing on the blood of her martyrs; great in death, greater in sufferings, greatest in death for the honor of Christ and the benefit of generations to come.



From the Council of Nicaea to the Fall of the Roman Empire (325–590)

Momentous changes occurred both in the church and in the political structure of the West during the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries.



Christianity, a persecuted minority faith at Constantine's conversion in AD 312, had become the religion of the Empire by the end of the century. The bishop of Rome, whose leadership in the church had been largely a primacy of honour, now claimed supreme and universal authority in Christian lands, and began to make good this claim in the West, at least over the church. By the time of Pope Gregory I (590–604) the collapse of the Western Empire left the Roman bishop the real ruler of much of central Italy.

The Medieval Church and Scholasticism

- The missionary period from Gregory I. to Hildebrand or Gregory VII., a.d. 590–1073. The conversion of the northern barbarians. The dawn of a new civilization. The origin and progress of Islam.
- The palmy period of the papal theocracy from Gregory VII. to Boniface VIII., a.d. 1073–1294. The height of the papacy, monasticism and scholasticism. The Crusades. The conflict between the Pope and the Emperor. If we go back to the rise of Hildebrand, this period begins in 1049.

Most Evangelical Churches are Congregational in Government. Jesus Promised He would Build His Church

God also established the office of deacons in the church. The word deacon could be translated servant which better describes the nature of this office. The first deacons were selected by the church and appointed by the apostles to do ministry and restore harmony in the church. As a result of their faithful ministry, "the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith"

This means that the church congregation itself is the final authority in major decisions such as the calling of a pastor, the purchase or sale of property, and the approval of the church budget. This congregational approach to church government is the same as democracy. However, the church is a theocracy under the Lordship of Christ. When Christians meet to make church decisions, they should vote on the basis of what they believe the Lord would like to see happen in His church, not on the basis of what they would like.

When we become fully involved in the life of the church, we are working with Christ in doing what He is doing. That opportunity alone should motivate us to become as fully involved as possible in the ministry of a local Bible-believing church in our community."

The Enlightenment, also known as the Age of Reason, was a time when man began to use his reason to discover the world, casting off the superstition and fear of the medieval world. The effort to discover the natural laws which governed the universe led to scientific.

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