

# THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Faith Handed On




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## Formation: The Early Church

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

- ▣ The Gospel of Luke, The Book of Acts and Paul's Epistles
- ▣ Challenges of the Early Church
  - Judaism v. Christianity
  - Marcion, Montanism, and The Gnostics
  - Canon
  - Rome
    - *The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity*
- ▣ Consensus




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## Establishment of the Church

- ▣ Galerius and Constantine
  - 311 Galerius issues an edict of tolerance towards Christianity
  - 313 Constantine takes Rome, and issues the Edict of Milan
    - Religious Freedom for the empire
    - Honors Christianity first among the other cults of the empire.
    - Grants the church land
    - Allows church to raise clergy, and gives them privileged positions in the empire
    - Church is exempt from taxes and municipal duties
- ▣ The Catholic Church becomes Roman




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## Establishment of the Church

- ▣ Controversy
  - Donatists
  - Arius v. Alexander (The Trinity)
  - The Council of Nicea
  - Constantius, Julian, Valentinian and Valens
  - The Nicenes
- ▣ Great Fathers of the Western Church
  - Ambrose, Augustine, Gregory the Great and Jerome
  - Western Catholic Church is unified in Nicene Christianity
- ▣ Eastern Church
  - Council of Ephesus 431




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## The Faith of Christendom

- ▣ Fall of the Western Roman Empire; Birth of the Medieval World
  - 450-500 Rome falls.
  - Germanic "Invaders" were either pagan or Arian converts (Goths and Franks)
  - Franks convert to Catholicism, but Catholicism also takes on some Frankish elements as well.
  - Pope Gregory the Great
    - Expansion of the Papal Office
    - The Church takes over affairs of Rome and all of Italy
    - The See of Peter begins to show both Temporal and Spiritual authority
  - Benedict
    - Monastic Life




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## The Faith of Christendom

- ▣ Charlemagne
  - The New Constantine
  - Crowned by Pope Leo III in the year 800
    - First Roman Emperor in 300 years
    - Marked the partnership between the church and the monarchies of Europe
    - The ideal of Christendom
  - Canon Law, Biblical Study and Christian Education develop during this time
  - Charlemagne's kingdom crumbles after his death, but the ideals of Christendom endure




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## The Faith of Christendom

- ▣ Gregorian Reform
  - Pope Leo IX
    - Simony and concubinage in the clergy
    - Schism between the East and West in 1054
  - Pope Gregory VII
    - Rejected idea of Royal authority over ecclesial appointments
    - Advocated Papal rights to depose of emperors
    - Chased from Rome by Henry IV in 1077
  - Pope Urban II
    - First Crusade in 1095
- ▣ High Middle Ages 1100-1300
  - Religious life flourishes
  - Rise of Scholasticism
    - Anselm of Canterbury and Thomas Aquinas




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## Faith Divided

- ▣ Crisis of Papal Authority
  - Pope Boniface and Unam Sanctum
  - The Avignon Popes
  - St. Catherine of Siena and Bridget of Sweden
  - Pope Gregory XI returns papacy to Rome after 70 years in France
  - Pope Urban VI v. Clement VII
  - Council of Constance in 1414 and the Conciliarists
- ▣ Renaissance Popes
  - Lavish lifestyles (responsible for the splendor of the Vatican today)
  - Ignored the calls of reform from the laity
  - Lay spirituality was on the rise




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## Faith Divided

- ▣ Martin Luther and the Reformation
  - One of many seeking reform in the church
  - Indulgences - 95 Theses in 1517
  - Official break with the Church in 1521
    - Theological differences on Church authority
    - Got support from German Princes
    - Excommunicated
    - Printing press helped spread his message to an already discontent laity
    - Political and financial advantages for principalities to leave the church
    - Doctrine of comfort - all faith, no works
    - Catholic v. Protestants all over Europe, not just Lutherans




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## Faith Divided

- ▣ Catholic Counter-Reformation
  - Pope Paul III. 1534-49
  - Conference of Regensburg 1541
  - Council of Trent, 1545-63.
    - Catholicism's systematic response to the Protestant Reformation
    - Declared St. Jerome's Vulgate free from dogmatic error
    - Revelation is found in scripture as well as unwritten tradition
    - The Church is the Custodian of these elements and the only reliable authority capable of interpreting them.
    - Affirmation of the 7 sacraments and transubstantiation
    - Strengthened the authority of the bishops
    - Church emerged with a sense of confidence, identity, and mission.




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## Faith in a New World

- ▣ Tridentine renewal of Catholicism
  - Discalced Carmelites, Dominicans, Franciscans, Sisters of Visitation, Society of Jesus
- ▣ St. Ignatius of Loyola
  - Spiritual Exercises
  - Jesuits
- ▣ The New World
  - St. Francis Xavier, Fr. Ricci - Asia
  - Antonio Montesinos, Bartolome de las Casas - Americas
    - The Guarani Rebellion
  - North America
    - English Catholics (Maryland)
    - Spanish Catholics in Southwest
    - French Catholics in Canada




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## Faith in a New World

- ▣ Meanwhile in Europe
  - Lutheranism and Calvinism (Huguenots) gaining strength
  - War all over between Catholic and Protestants
    - 30 Years War
  - Peace of Westphalia in 1648
  - Jesuits rise to power
    - Expelled in 1773 by Pope Clement XIV
  - The enlightenment




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## Faith in an Age of Revolution

- ▣ Scientific Revolution
  - Galileo, Copernicus
- ▣ American and French Revolution
  - Enlightenment Principles
  - Separation of Church and State
  - Secularization
- ▣ Pope Pius IX
  - Immaculate Conception of Mary. 1854
  - First Vatican Council 1869-1870.
    - Papal Infallibility
- ▣ Americanism
  - Catholics Persecuted in America




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## Faith Handed on to You

- ▣ Pope Pius XII
  - WWII
  - Divino Afflante Spiritu, Mediator Dei, Mystici Corporis
- ▣ Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) 1962-65
  - Pope John XXIII
  - Produced 16 Documents
    - Lumen gentium
    - Gaudium et spes
- ▣ What are we doing with our Faith today?




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