

## A WORD ABOUT CHURCH HISTORY

Some scholars estimate that there are over 2000 groups today who lay claim to being a Church, or at least the direct descendants of the Church described in the New Testament!?

But for the first thousand years church was essentially one. Five historic Patriarchal centers: Jerusalem, Antioch, Rome, Alexandria, and Constantinople formed a cohesive whole and were in full communion with each other. There were occasional heretical or schismatic groups going their own way, but Church was unified until 11<sup>th</sup> century. Then events culminated in 1054 A.D. the Roman Patriarch pulled away from the other four, pursuing his long developing idea/claim of "universal" headship of the Church.

Today, nearly thousand years later, the other four Patriarchates remain intact, in FULL communion, maintaining that Orthodox apostolic faith of the inspired New Testament record. The Orthodox Church and her history is described herein from the Pentecost to the present day. Also you will find interesting info in regard to yours "churches" dates and founders...

1. **Roman Catholic Church:** your church shared the same rich apostolic and doctrinal heritage as the Orthodox Church for the first thousand years of its history; since during the first millennium they were one and the same Church. Lamentably, in 1054 A.D. the Pope of Rome broke away from the four other Apostolic Patriarchates (Constantinople, Alexandria, Jerusalem and Antioch), by unilaterally altering the original Creed of the Church and considering himself to be the universal head of the Church, aka "Christ on earth"!?! Thus, your church was founded in the year 1054.
2. **Lutheran:** Your religion and beliefs were founded by Martin Luther, an ex-monk of the Roman-Catholic Church, in the year 1517.
3. **Church of England:** Your religion was founded by King Henry the VIII in the year 1534, because the Pope would not grant him a divorce with the right to remarry.
4. **Presbyterian:** Your religion was founded by in Scotland by John Knox in the year 1560.
5. **Congregationalist:** Your religion originated with Robert Brown in Holland in 1582.
6. **Baptist:** you owe the tenets of your religion to John Smith, who launched it in Amsterdam in 1606.

7. **Protestant Episcopalian:** your religion is an offshoot of the Church of England, founded by Samuel Seabury in the American colonies in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
8. **Methodist:** your religion was founded by John and Charles Wesley in England in 1774.
9. **Unitarian:** Theopolis Lindley founded your church in London in 1774.
10. **Seventh day Adventist:** your history began 1844 with the Baptist preacher William Miller, followed by James and Ellen White in 1863.
11. **Jehovah's Witnesses:** began with Charles Taze Russel in 1872.
12. **Christian Scientist:** you look into 1879 as the year your religion was born and to Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy as its founder.

If you belong to any other religious organization that calls itself a church, your religion is one of hundreds new sects founded by MEN within the past hundred years.

**ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS:** if this is your religion, your Church was instituted by Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and His Apostles in the year 33 A.D. This was the beginning of the Christian Era. There is no time in this Era when the Orthodox Church did not exist and there has been no interrupt in the life of the Church up to this present day. The Orthodox Church continues to hold its Treasury of Christian Faith and Truth, Sacred Scripture, Holy Traditions and Liturgical Worship unchanged! The Orthodox Church is in fact **One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church**, and its age is the same as that of Christianity itself. Jesus Christ is the Head of His Church which is guided by the Holy Spirit unto the ages of ages. Amen.