

WHICH GROUP?

CHART OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS



SUMMARY: A listing of summary data on various doctrines of various groups.

The following pages are Innovation Data Sheets compiled to give a quick comparison of various religious groups. Following are pages on each specific religious group discussed showing where the information came from and gives more comprehensive data. The general format of the following pages follows the format of the data sheets. A quick scriptural reference is given for most subjects and pages on which the subject is discussed on Christian Array pages is listed. Starting dates are given for activities started after the first century.

A timing column is included with the following abbreviations:

P = apostasy predicted in the first century

F = first century problem

R = more recent innovation

Within the data section, the following indications are used:

A = allows this doctrine

T = teaches this doctrine

Formerly the comparison of Churches of Christ with the mainline denominations or Catholicism was a relatively simple matter. With the recent growth of the evangelical movement, it has become much more complicated. Part of the problem is even the meanings of the words are evolving.

The list used by the Barna Group (2009) has become the standard measure of which churches are "mainline," and is likely the most correct according to belief, history, and popularity. They consider the following denominations to be mainline:

American Baptist Churches in the USA

Evangelical Lutheran Churches

The Episcopal Church

The Presbyterian Church

The United Church of Christ

The United Methodist Church

Scot McKnight's definition of evangelicalism is defined by four things:

1. The centrality of the Bible.
2. The centrality of the atoning death of Christ.
3. The centrality of the need for personal conversion.
4. The centrality of an active mission to convert others and to do good works in society.

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The standard definition of Evangelical is the Bebbington Quadrilateral:

1. Biblicism, a particular regard for the Bible (e.g. all essential spiritual truth is to be found in its pages)
2. Crucicentrism, a focus on the atoning work of Christ on the cross
3. Conversionism, the belief that human beings need to be converted
4. Activism, the belief that the gospel needs to be expressed in effort

At the end of the more historic denominations is a listing of 6 evangelical churches. All the boxes are filled in with a “?” giving a generic indication that a particular “evangelistic” church can believe just about anything they choose to believe. There can be no summary statement for all evangelical churches as they have no headquarters giving standards to adhere to or no traditional set of beliefs such as exists in the Churches of Christ.

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		SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE	ARRAY PAGE NO.	START DATE		A D V E N T I S T	A S S Y O C I A T E	B A P T I S T	B A P T I S T M I S S I O N A R Y	B A P T I S T S O U T H E R N	B A P T I S T P R I M I T I V E	C A T H O L I C
S A L V		ALL WILL BE SAVED	HEB. 6:4-6		R	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
		SALVATION BY FAITH ONLY	JAMES 2:17		R	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
		SECOND CHANCE AFTER DEATH	MATT. 25:31-46		593	R	.	.	.	.	.	T
		CANNOT FALL FROM GRACE	GAL. 5:4	8.8	R	.	.	.	.	.	T	.
B A P T		PREDESTINATION (TO SALV.)	GAL. 5:4	8.11	R	.	.	.	.	.	T	.
		NOT ESSENTIAL FOR SALVATION	ACTS 2:38	4.6	R	.	.	.	T	T	.	.
		SPRINKLING OR POURING	ACTS 8:38	4.6	1311	R	.	.	.	.	.	T
		OF INFANTS		4.6	1750	R	.	.	.	.	.	T
I S M		DEPRAVITY OF INFANTS	MATT. 18:3	4.6	R	.	.	.	.	.	.	T
		FOR DEAD		4.6	R	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
		OF HOLY SPIRIT		4.6	R	.	T	.	.	.	.	.
		LORDSHIP	ACTS 2:38	4.6	1980's	R	.	.	.	.	.	.
O R G A N I Z A T I O N		MAN'S NAME FOR CHURCH	I COR. 1:10-17		57	F	T	T	T	T	T	T
		NOT UNDER LOCAL CONTROL	I TIM. 5:17	4.9	328	R	T	T	T	T	T	T
		CHANGED ORGANIZATIONAL TYPE	I TIM. 3 & TITUS 1		325	R	.	.	.	.	.	T
		CALLS HUMANS FATHER OR REV.	MATT. 23:8-10		325	F	.	.	.	.	.	T
		INFALLIBILITY OF A MEMBER				R	.	.	.	.	.	T
		CELEBACY OF PRIESTHOOD	I TIM 4:3		1414	P	.	.	.	.	.	T
		SPECIAL DRESS OF PRIESTHOOD	MATT. 231-7		1123	F	.	.	.	.	.	T
		PROBATION FOR NEW MEMBERS	ACTS 2:41			R	.	.	.	.	.	.
B I B L		VOTE TO ACCEPT NEW MEMBERS	ACTS 2:41			R	.	.	.	.	T	.
		CAN UP DATE BIBLE	REV. 22:18-19	5.1		R	T	.	.	.	.	T
		USE OF A CREED	GAL 1:8-9			R	.	.	.	.	T	T
		SUBJECT TO PART OF OLD LAW	GAL 3:24-25			F	.	T	.	.	.	.
E N D		TRADITION = BIBLE IN DECISIONS	MATT. 15:3		1545	R	.	.	.	.	.	T
		KINGDOM NOT EST. IN 1ST CENT.	COL 1:13			R	.	T	.	.	.	.
		PREMILLENNIUMISM				R	.	T	.	.	.	.
		RAPTURE		7.11		R	.	T	.	.	.	.
		THERE IS NO HELL	MATT. 5:22	7.4		R	.	.	.	.	.	.
		PURIFICATION IN PURGATORY	LUKE 16:19-28		593	R	.	.	.	.	.	T
M I S C		CHRIST NOT RESURRECTED	I COR. 15:12-19			F	.	.	.	.	.	.
		HOMOSEXUAL ACTS O.K.	ROMANS 1:26-27		1900's	R	.	.	.	.	.	.
		USE OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC	EPH 5:19		667	R	.	T	.	T	.	T
		WOMEN ADDRESSING MEN AT SER.	I COR 14:34-35			F	.	.	.	.	.	.
		DIVORCE & REMARR. W/O ADULTERY	MATT. 5:32, 19:9	8.15		F	.	.	.	.	.	.
		PROPHECY DATE OF CHRIST'S RET.	II PETER 3:19			R	.	T	.	.	.	.
M I S C		MIRACULOUS GIFTS TODAY	I COR 13:8			R	.	T	.	.	.	.
		RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS	GAL 4:9-11			F	.	.	.	.	.	T
		WORSHIP OF DEPARTED SAINTS			787	R	.	.	.	.	.	T
		MEMBERS NOT SAINTS	ROMANS 1:7			R	.	.	.	.	.	T
		ABSTAIN FROM FOODS	I TIM 4:3, COL 2:18-23		998	P	.	.	.	.	.	T
		TEACH MYTHS	II TIM 4:4		451	P	.	.	.	.	.	T
		COMMUNION NOT WEEKLY	ACTS 20:7		>300	R	.	.	.	.	.	.
		TRANSUBSTANTIATION			1215	R	.	.	.	.	.	T
		REQ. CONFESSION TO ANOTHER			1217	R	.	.	.	.	.	T
		ABSOLUTION (FORGIVENESS BY PRIEST)			1268	R	T
	PENANCE (WORK TO REMOVE SIN)			157	R	T	

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		N A Z A R E N E S	P R E C O S T A L	P R E S B Y T E R I A N	Q U A K E R S	S A L V A R S A L I	U N I V E R S A L	U N I T A R I A N											
		A	B	C	D	E	F	A	B	C	D	E	F	A	B	C	D	E	F
S A L V	ALL WILL BE SAVED	.	.	.	.	.	T	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	SALVATION BY FAITH ONLY	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	SECOND CHANCE AFTER DEATH	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	CANNOT FALL FROM GRACE	.	.	T	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	PREDESTINATION (TO SALV.)	.	.	T	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
B A P T I S M	NOT ESSENTIAL FOR SALVATION	T	T	.	T	T	T	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	SPRINKLING OR POURING	T	.	T	.	.	T	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	OF INFANTS	T	.	T	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	DEPRAVITY OF INFANTS	T	.	T	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	FOR DEAD	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	OF HOLY SPIRIT	T	T	T	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
LORDSHIP	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?	
O R G A N I Z A	MAN'S NAME FOR CHURCH	T	T	T	T	T	T	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	NOT UNDER LOCAL CONTROL	.	.	T	.	T	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	CHANGED ORGANIZATIONAL TYPE	.	.	T	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	CALLS HUMANS FATHER OR REV.	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	INFALLIBILITY OF A MEMBER	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	CELEBACY OF PRIESTHOOD	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	SPECIAL DRESS OF PRIESTHOOD	.	.	T	T	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
PROBATION FOR NEW MEMBERS	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?	
VOTE TO ACCEPT NEW MEMBERS	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?	
B I B L	CAN UP DATE BIBLE	.	.	T	.	T	T	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	USE OF A CREED	.	.	.	.	T	T	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	SUBJECT TO PART OF OLD LAW	.	.	T	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	TRADITION = BIBLE IN DECISIONS	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
E N D	KINGDOM NOT EST. IN 1ST CENT.	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	PREMILLENIUMISM	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	RAPTURE	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	THERE IS NO HELL	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	PURIFICATION IN PURGATORY	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
CHRIST NOT RESURRECTED	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?	
M I S C	HOMOSEXUAL ACTS O.K.	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	USE OF INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC	.	T	T	.	T	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	WOMEN ADDRESSING MEN AT SER.	.	.	T	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?						
	DIVORCE & REMARR. W/O ADULTERY	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	PROPHECY DATE OF CHRIST'S RET.	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	MIRACULOUS GIFTS TODAY	T	T	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?		
RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS	.	.	T	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?							
M I S C	WORSHIP OF DEPARTED SAINTS	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	MEMBERS NOT SAINTS	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	ABSTAIN FROM FOODS	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	TEACH MYTHS	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	COMMUNION NOT WEEKLY	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	TRANSUBSTANTIATION	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	REQ. CONFESSION TO ANOTHER	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
	ABSOLUTION (FORGIVENESS BY PRIEST)	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?
PENANCE (WORK TO REMOVE SIN)	.	.	.	.	.	.	?	?	?	?	?	?	