

WHICH GROUP?

INNOVATIONS INTO CHURCHES



SUMMARY: There have been a steady stream of apostacies coming into church, and it is continuing today.

This lesson is an attempt to provide a ready reference on the history of when non-scriptural matters were brought into churches. It not only provides a history of the situation, but also confirms what the first century church did.

This can help us:

1. To better understand what we believe,
2. To be able to discuss with others the beliefs of their churches by being acquainted with the practices of their denomination,
3. In some cases to be able to tell members of other churches what the basic beliefs of their denominations are, when they are not acquainted themselves,
4. In some cases, to show others the doctrines they are teaching by their lives by the denomination they attend, and
5. In some cases, to know the innovations in a particular denomination and to emphasize the scriptural position from a positive point of view without ever having to mention the innovation which the denomination practices.

Innovations fall into the categories of:

1. Scriptural Matters: Matters which when brought into the church teach as a religious principle or practice something in conflict with or in addition to that which was taught in the first century.
2. Expediency: Something which facilitates the implementation of religious principles and practices taught by Jesus and the Apostles, i.e. a public-address system, pews, class rooms, printed Bibles, etc. This section deals solely with innovations which relate to scriptural matters.

The understanding of the innovations of churches is important as many people choose a church because of parental membership, social contacts, location of the church, and other reasons other than for the scripturalness of the teachings. When this happens, we must sometimes educate the prospect both in what the Bible says and what their denomination teaches to cause a realization of a need for change.

It is important to recognize that not only will a lot of people not actually realize what their group teaches (sounds like us sometimes), but there is variation within the groups. As an example of this, there will be Baptist churches who teach exactly the same things as Churches of Christ do, except for the name on the door. The following information characterizes the groups by the information we can find and will tend to be what their majority believes. The following information should only be used as a guideline, and if you see updates which need to be made, let us know.

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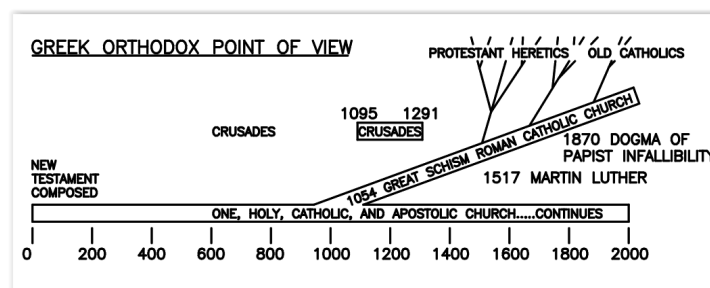


DATES OF INTRODUCTION



YEAR INNOVATION

- 125-150 **RULING BISHOP** OVER AN INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATION
- 157 **PENANCE** (PUNISHMENT FOR SINS)
- 251* FIRST CASE OF **SPRINKLING** (NOVATION)
- 325 CHANGES IN **ORGANIZATION**, CONDEMNATION OF IMAGE WORSHIP, START ON CONCEPT OF TRINITY (NICE I COUNCIL) (NICEAN CREED WAS FIRST CHRISTIAN CREED)
- 375* **DEPRAVITY OF BABIES** SUGGESTED BY AUGUSTINE
- 431 WORSHIP OF **MARY** APPROVED (EPHESUS COUNCIL)
- 528 **EXTREME UNCTION** (SACREMENT GIVEN TO ONE IN DANGER OF DEATH)
- 593 PURIFICATION IN **PURGATORY**
- 606* FIRST OFFICIAL **POPE** APPROVED (BONIFACE III)
- 667* INTRODUCTION OF **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC** (ORGAN BY POPE VITALIAN)
- 701 **CANDLES** ADDED TO THE CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE
- 728 CHURCH AND **STATE** COMBINED
- 787 **IMAGE WORSHIP** APPROVED (MARY, SAINTS, RELICS) (NICE II)
- 933 INVOCATION OF **SAINTS**
- 998 FASTING, FISH, **LENT**, GOOD FRIDAY
- 1009 **HOLY WATER**
- 1054 SPLIT BETWEEN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES
- 1090 **ROSARY BEADS**
- 1123 **CELIBACY** WHERE PRIESTS WERE FORBIDDEN TO MARRY (LATERAN I)
- 1179 **CANONIZATION** OF SAINTS (LATERAN III COUNCIL)



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- 1215 **INDULGENCES** (PAYMENT FOR PRIVILEGE TO SIN), **TRANSUBSTANTIATION** (BREAD AND WINE BECOME CHRIST'S ACTUAL BODY AND BLOOD)
- 1217 AURICULAR **CONFESSION** (PRIVATE - "TOLD IN EAR")
- 1230 ELEVATION OF HOST AND **BELL RINGING**
- 1268 **ABSOLUTION** (REMISSION OF SINS BY PRIEST)
- 1300 LIMBO OF INFANTS (A STATE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL)
- 1311* **SPRINKLING** SUBSTITUTED FOR BAPTISM (RAVENNA COUNCIL)
- 1414 LAITY DEPRIVED OF CUP, **INFALLIBILITY OF COUNCILS** AFFIRMED
- 1431-43 RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES OR **SACRAMENTS** NUMBERED SEVEN (BAPTISM, COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ANOINTING OF THE SICK, PENANCE, ORDINATION, AND MARRIAGE)
- 1493 CONTROL OF **MARRIAGE RIGHTS**
- 1545-63* **TRADITION EQUAL TO BIBLE** IN DETERMINING WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE CHURCH, LATIN MASS, APOCRYPHAL BOOKS CONFIRMED (TRENT)
(KJV 1611)
- 1750 SPRINKLING OF BABIES APPROVED BY CATHOLIC CHURCH
- 1845 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF **MARY** (BORN W/O ORIGINAL SIN)
- 1869-70 **INFALLIBILITY OF POPE** AS AGAINST COUNCILS WHEN ON THRONE
- 1950 ASSUMPTION OF **MARY'S BODY** INTO HEAVEN
- 1960's? **HOMOSEXUALITY** TAUGHT AS ACCEPTABLE BY SOME DENOMINATIONS
- 1960's? **WOMEN** ACCEPTED AS MINISTERS IN SOME DENOMINATION
- 2000's PRACTICING HOMOSEXUALS ORDAINED AS PRIESTS AND MINISTERS IN A VARIETY OF CONGREGATIONS.
- 2000's MARRIAGES BETWEEN THOSE PRACTICING HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT APPROVED BY SOME DENOMINATIONS.

