

International Conversation Cafe

Community Group: How Did the Church Grow After the First Century?

The growth of the church spread from the area of Israel and moved to Turkey, Greece, Italy, North Africa, and then to other parts of Europe, India, and Asia. It is a fascinating story. The illustration of the tree on the next page summarizes the growth and diversity of the church simply. But the history of the church is worth reading about.

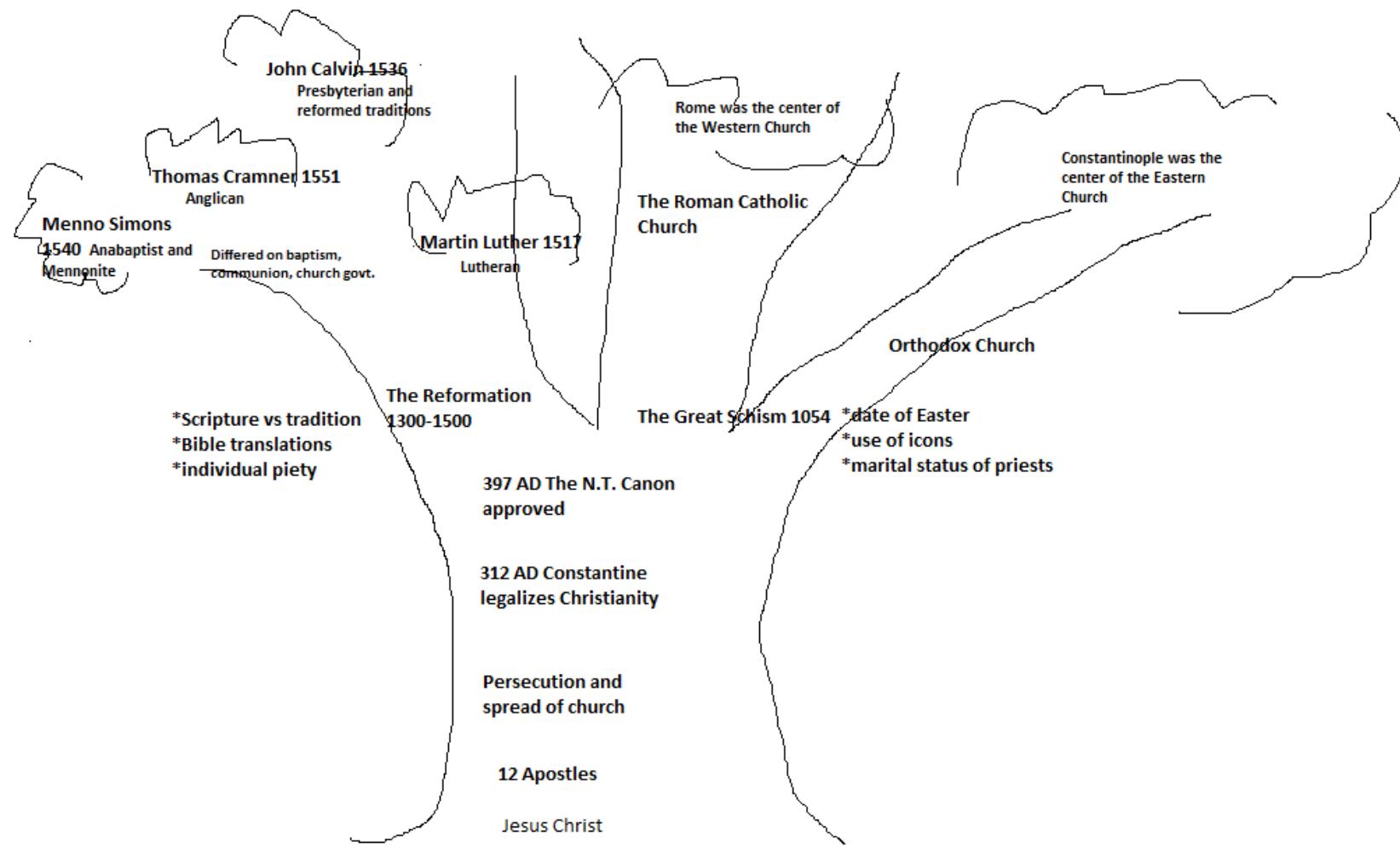
The Apostles Creed was developed by the Church from the 2nd century to 8th century. This was a public confession made at the time of baptism. The earliest text is dated at 400 AD.

I believe in (one) God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic (universal) church,
the communion (unity) of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Overview of Church History from Beginning through the Denominational Era



The roots of the tree are the knowledge of God revealed in the writings of the Old Testament.

Rupertus Meldenius "On the necessary points, unity; on the questionable points, liberty; in everything love."

Throughout the world, Jesus is worshipped in many different ways according to traditions and cultural norms. It is important to realize the way one culture worships does not necessarily make it the only way to worship. Read through the following examples and determine if the example is cultural or Biblical.

Cultural or Biblical

Worship band with contemporary music	Giving to those in need
How we practice communion	Caring for the environment
The order of a church service	Right to happiness, wealth, and health
Meditative worship	The capitalistic way of life
Loud, demonstrative worship	Tolerance towards a gay/lesbian lifestyle
Baptizing infants	Right to happiness, wealth, and health.
Meeting on Sunday rather than Saturday or Friday	Cleanliness is next to godliness.
To be on time	Have a church building.
To be honest	Practice hospitality.
To express your feelings openly and directly	
Respect of elders	
Greeting each other with a kiss	
Having a church building	
The democratic process in church	

