

Overview of the Bible (Lesson #12)

Today's topic: The Church
Recommended Reading: Chapters 69 - 76 of Ryrie's *Basic Theology*

1. In today's study of our *Overview of the Bible* series we'll be in Lesson #12:

- Lesson #1: Basic overview and Authority of the Bible
- Lesson #2: A study of God and His Defining Attributes
- Lesson #3: The Bible: Inspired Word of God
- Lesson #4: Angels
- Lesson #5: The Devil
- Lesson #6: Demons
- Lesson #7: Mankind
- Lesson #8: Sin
- Lesson #9: Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior of the World
- Lesson #10: Salvation overview (Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification)
- Lesson #11: The Holy Spirit
- **Lesson #12: The Church**
- Lesson #13: End Time Prophecy
- Lesson #14: Wrapping it all up and putting it all together...

2. How does the "world" view the Church and people in the church? Consider the typical American in developing your answer (maybe someone who does not go to church).

3. There are few subjects in Christian circles that bring debate concerning how "God intended us to worship and set up the church". By and large we are products of our upbringing, which can carry some level of baggage. As a group, let's make a list of "hot buttons" that have plagued the church. The focus of this question is identifying what divides us.

4. Are there areas where you see Christians uniting?

5. Church history is really a fascinating subject and it's extremely interesting to see the "lineage" from which denominations derive. Look at the chart shown on Page 3 and let's discuss some of the significant "divisions" that occurred in the following years:

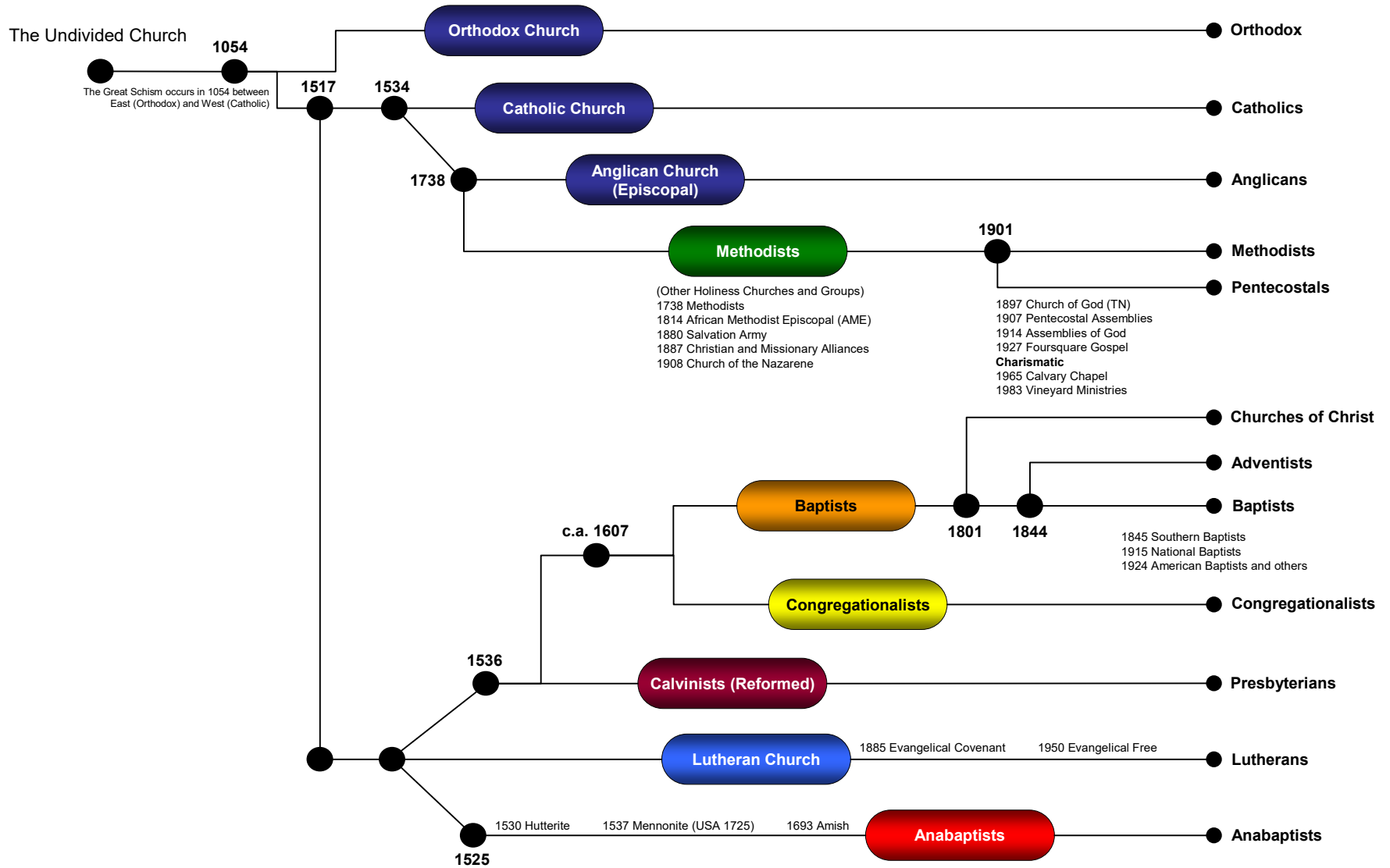
- a. 1054
- b. 1517
- c. 1536
- d. 1534
- e. 1738

6. Jesus is clearly the central figure in the Church, being the Founder and the Head. Let's look at the following passages and explore what message is provided to us about Jesus and His view of the church.

- a. Matthew 18:15-20
- b. I Corinthians 3:11
- c. John 13:34-35
- d. John 14:1-3
- e. Ephesians 1:22-23

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7. In Chapter 72, Dr. Ryrie looks at the subject of *Types of Church Government*. Listed below are the five (5) forms he has observed in church history. Let's discuss some of the observations we have with each, especially in terms of pros and cons. According to Dr. Ryrie, which type appears to most align with New Testament teaching?
- a. Minimal Government (p. 470)
 - b. National Government (p. 470)
 - c. Hierarchical Government (p. 471)
 - d. Congregational Government (p. 472)
 - e. Federal Government (p. 474)
8. Leadership plays a central role in how churches operate and function. In many regards the successes and failures of church leaders have determined the ability of particular churches to function. The New Testament identifies two main categories of church leadership: elders and deacons. Let's review the Bible passages provided below and explore the requirements for leadership.¹
- a. Elders (I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9)
 - b. Deacons (I Timothy 3:8-13)
9. In Chapter 75, Dr. Ryrie discusses the subject of *The Worship of the Church*. On pages 497-499 we see the 5-fold elements of corporate worship. Let's spend time looking at these elements and the role they play in the life of the church.
- a. The Word (Bible)
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Singing
 - d. Giving
 - e. Fellowship
10. In closing, what role has church played in your life and has its impact on your life changed over the years? What advice would you give a young person, or young couple, seeking advice on church involvement and participation?
11. **NEXT BIBLE STUDY:** We're complete the Prophecy Section: Chapters 77-92 on Sunday, December 8th. Because we're not meeting the weekend of Thanksgiving, you'll have extra time to prepare!

¹ The Bible charges elders with the tasks of teaching and leading the church; however, the deacons' role is more service-oriented. That is, they are to care for the physical or temporal concerns of the church. By handling such matters, deacons free up the elders to focus on shepherding the spiritual needs of the congregation.



Adapted from Rose Publishing's Denominational Comparison pamphlet (2005)