
G8 Ch. 15 The Church Faces Challenges

— Ch. 15 L3 Protestant Brothers
and Sisters —

Video Notes

G8 Ch. 15 L3.1 The Diff. between Catholics and Protestant Christians 12m

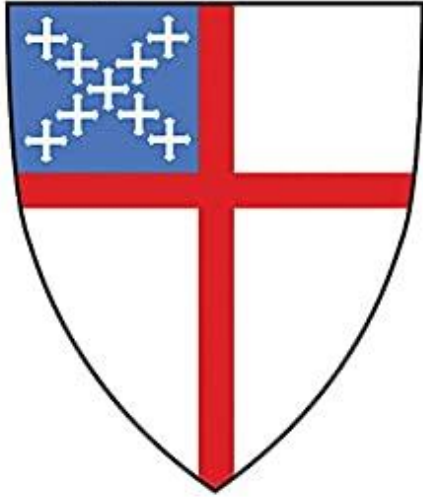
Lutherans



- Most Protestants in the world are Lutherans, who number more than 70 million. They belong to different Lutheran denominations. Lutherans in general hold to the distinctive teachings of Martin Luther. Human beings are inclined to evil and in need of reform. The Bible is the sole guide for faith. Faith alone saves.
- Lutheran liturgy resembles Catholic liturgy in the use of vestments, in the architecture of the church, and in format and prayer. The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday or once a month. For the ceremony, prayers familiar to Catholics are used. Lutherans, like Luther himself, stress music in worship and are known for their hymns. The hymn "A Mighty Fortress of Our God" was composed by Luther.
- Local Lutheran churches own their own property and elect their own pastors and church officers. Most pastors wear business clothes and are called "Pastor." Deacons take vows and serve for life. Women may be ordained to the ministry. Lutherans have their own school system and seminaries.

Episcopalians

The Episcopal Church



- The Episcopal Church resembles the Catholic Church. It believes in Seven Sacraments and the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. It worships with a liturgy very similar to the Catholic Mass and has religious communities. Episcopalians accept elements of both the Catholic and Protestant faiths. Unlike other Protestants, Episcopalians value apostolic succession, the episcopacy, and the priesthood. Episcopalians recognize the pope as the bishop of Rome but do not acknowledge his primacy. They accept not only the Bible but also the tradition of the Church before the Protestant Reformation as the guide for faith. The Episcopal Church is affiliated with the Anglican Church, the Church of England. All bishops are in communion with the archbishop of Canterbury in England. However, each national Episcopal Church is self-governing and distinct. The Book of Common Prayer unites all Episcopalians.

Methodists



- The Methodist Church began in the 18th century as a renewal movement within the Church of England. **John Wesley**, a priest in the Church of England and the leader of the Methodist church, began to ordain priests himself during the American Revolutionary War. He provided pastoral leadership to the Methodists in America, since most Church of England priests returned to England during the war. Wesley believed that all people have free will and that grace is central to an understanding of Christian faith and life. Methodists are not bound to certain creeds, but to the members of the church they must profess faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Their church is highly organized and devoted to personal piety and the Gospel message under the leadership of bishops. Methodists are not bound to a uniform pattern of worship, although the denomination recommends a specified order. They celebrate communion frequently during worship. They believe in two sacraments, Communion and Baptism, as the signs of God's grace and good will toward us. Methodists began Goodwill Industries, the Salvation Army, and many hospitals and colleges.

Presbyterians



- The Presbyterian Church goes back to John Calvin. Calvin is known for teaching predestination, the belief that God chooses who is to be saved and who is to be sent to hell. Predestination means that we have no free will. Presbyterians today do not accept this teaching as such. They do retain Calvin's rejection of the Mass as a sacrifice and believe that Jesus is merely represented at the Lord's Supper. Presbyterians are governed by presbyters. Each local church elects the ministers, ruling elders, and deacons. All the ministers within a certain area and an equal number of ruling elders from the presbytery form the chief governing body. The presbyteries join to form synods, and representatives from each presbytery from the General Assembly, which meets every two years.
- The Presbyterian Book of Confessions includes the Nicene Creed, the Apostles' Creed, and other statements of faith. A formal profession of these creeds is not required for church membership. The Presbyterian Church has contributed much to the world in the area of peace and justice.

Baptists



- There are four large groups of Baptists and many small ones. Baptists insist on immersion for Baptism and that it be conferred by another Baptist. Baptism for Baptists does not remove sin. It is a sign of conversion, dying with Jesus, and rising to a new life. It must follow a confession of faith. Therefore, infants are not baptized. Neither Baptism nor the Lord's Supper has any supernatural significance for Baptists. They are called ordinances instead of sacraments. Baptists believe that the Lord's Supper is only a commemoration of Jesus' Death. Baptists are strong believers in religious liberty and freedom of conscience. No one has the authority over the individual person. Parishes are formed by the consent of a group of people who agree to worship together under a pastor of their choice. There are no bishops. Each congregation has its own worship patterns, and there are no binding creeds.