

Discussion Questions for Final Class – Church History 1600 – 1800

1. The religious wars of the 16th century which extended into the 17th century (biggest example the Thirty Years War) were one of the contributing factors in pushing people toward “rationalism” and the enlightenment. Are there activities today within and/or among Christian denominations that serve to drive people away from Christianity?
2. A significant amount of effort was expended in the 17th Century to document and pass on the teachings of the Reformers from the 16th century. Consider, for example, the Westminster Standards, the decisions from Dort, Turretin’s Institutes of Elenctic Theology. What, if any, role should these documents play in our lives?
3. Brother Lawrence, Blaise Pascal, John Wesley, and Nicholas von Zinzendorf all had specific conversion (or renewal) experiences in their lives. Should every Christian experience something like this at some point in their life?
4. The following is an excerpt from a George Whitefield sermon delivered in Philadelphia

“Father Abraham, who do you have in heaven? Any Episcopalians up there?” “No. No Episcopalians.”

“Do you have any Presbyterians up there?” “No Presbyterians.”

“Do you have any Independents or any Seceders?” “No, we do not have any of those.”

“Have any Methodists up there?” “No, no, no.”

“Well who do you have up there then?”

“We do not know those names up here. All who are here are Christians, believers in Christ, men and women who have been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.”

“Oh, is that so? Is that the case? Then God help us. God help us to forget all party names and to be Christians in deed and truth.”

What purposes do denominations serve? Is it possible for one to overemphasize their denominational affiliation?

Whitefield indicated that while he was preaching, the audience’s need to hear about God to was palpable to him and moved him. What lessons can we take from this when we are in teaching or evangelizing situations?

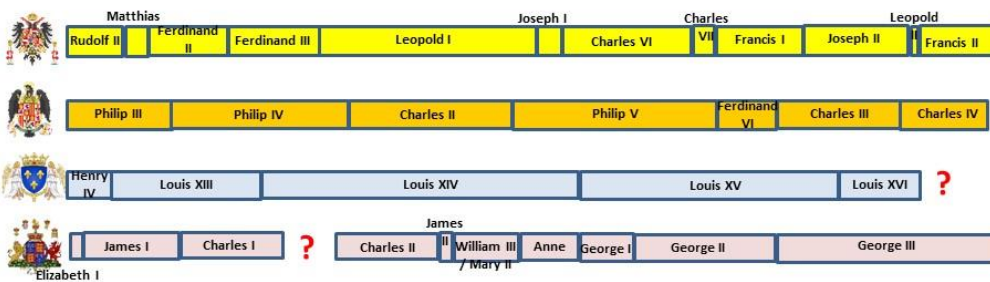
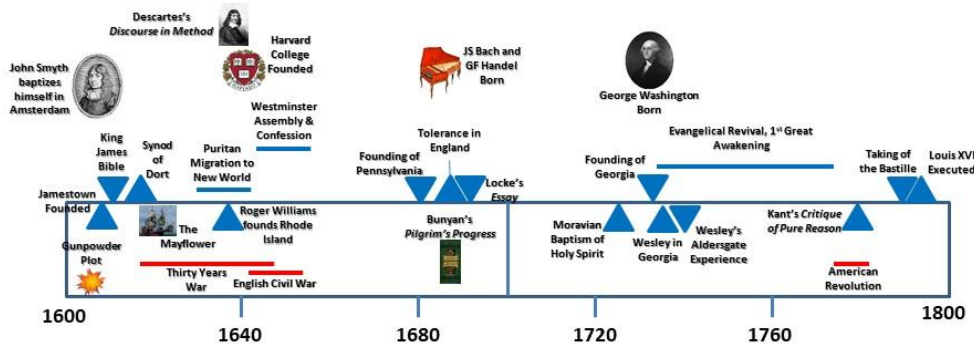
5. The Great Awakening in America seemed to be a time when God’s Word was making a widespread and drastic impact. Yet some at the time thought the revival it brought counter-productive, and even Jonathan Edwards spent a considerable amount of time pondering what differentiated those truly converted and committed vs. those who seemed to fall away quickly. (Consider Matthew 13:1-9).
 - a. What are some potential downsides to revival times?
 - b. Should we be praying to promote revival in our times? Should we be taking other actions to do this?
 - c. A significant number of participants in the Great Awakening, both preachers and recipients, were young people. Should this influence our attitudes toward and interactions with those crazy millennials in our day.
6. Over the course of the summer we looked at terms such as revival, dead orthodoxy, rationalism / enlightenment, and romanticism describing or influencing God’s church. How would you describe the church today?

Topics

- Introduction to Church History 1600-1800
- The British Church: The Anglicans
- Grace Abounding: The Puritans
- For Christ's Crown & Covenant: The Scottish Presbyterians
- God's Free Mercy: The Church in the Netherlands
- The Westminster Assembly
- Calvinism in the New World
- Protestant Orthodoxy
- The Path of Life: Brother Lawrence and Blaise Pascal
- The Great Divide: Enlightenment and Romanticism
- A Warmth From the Fire of God in the Heart of Germany: Pietism and Bach
- The Inextinguishable Blaze: The Evangelical Revival in Great Britain
- **The Great Awakening in America**
- **From the Awakening to the Revolution: Davies to Witherspoon**
- Summary

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Timeline 1600 - 1800



Class material, including a list of sources, available at <http://www.rpchurchmanassas.org/drupal/churchhistory16001800>