



## **Emergence and Growth of Early Christian Churches: Origins and Key Figures**

As time passed by, theological differences arose leading to schisms among these early Christians causing them to split into various factions or 'denominations'. The most notable division came about in 1054 AD known as the Great Schism when Christianity split into the Eastern Orthodox Church based primarily in Constantinople (now Istanbul) led by Patriarch Michael I Cerularius, and the Western Catholic Church under Pope Leo IX seated at Rome. A key figure during this period was Martin Luther whose Ninety-Five Theses sparked what is now known as the Protestant Reformation - an event that led to further fragmentation within Christianity creating numerous Protestant denominations including Lutheranism, Anglicanism, and Calvinism among others.

## **The Great Schism: Split between Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches**

Despite being separated geographically, both Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches continued to grow independently while preserving the core beliefs they shared: belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; observance of sacraments like baptism and eucharist; reverence for saints; veneration of the Virgin Mary among others. Their practices diverged significantly concerning church governance, liturgical traditions, clerical celibacy, etc., which continue to distinguish these two major branches of Christianity even today.

## **Protestant Reformation: Martin Luther, Key Beliefs, and Impact**

The impact of this seismic shift was profound both on Christianity and society at large. The Reformation reshaped religious thought, introduced new modes of worship, and democratized access to scriptures with translations in vernacular languages which also boosted literacy among masses; it fostered pluralism in Christian theology spawning diverse Protestant traditions like Lutheranism, Calvinism, etc., each with its unique interpretation of Christianity; socially it redefined church-state relations paving way for secularization; economically too it had significant repercussions leading to the emergence of capitalism according to some theories.

## **Anglicanism: Henry VIII, Church of England, and Fundamental**

# Tenets

Despite its break from Rome, Anglicanism retained many aspects of catholic traditions including sacramental theology, liturgical practices, etc., while incorporating reformed doctrines like justification by faith alone. The Book of Common Prayer and Thirty-Nine Articles serve as key doctrinal standards outlining fundamental tenets such as belief in the Trinity; affirmation of creeds (Nicene, Apostles'); acceptance of Old and New Testament scriptures; observance of two sacraments ordained by Christ: Baptism and Eucharist among others. Over time it evolved into a broad church encompassing diverse beliefs ranging from Anglo-Catholicism to Evangelical Anglicanism reflecting both its catholic roots and reformed heritage.

## Development of Baptist Denomination: Origins, Beliefs, and Influence

Baptist beliefs emphasize personal faith, the autonomy of local churches, the separation of church and state, and with believer's baptism – making them distinct from other Christian denominations. Their influence has been notable, especially in the United States where they emerged as one of the largest Protestant groups due to their active involvement in Great Awakenings (revivalist movements) during the 18th-19th century; contribution towards the development of democratic ideals like religious liberty; participation in social issues like abolitionism etc., thereby shaping American society profoundly.

## Evolution of Pentecostalism: Historical Context, Core Beliefs, and Global Impact

Today, Pentecostalism is one of the fastest-growing Christian movements globally, particularly popular in Latin America and Africa due to its emphasis on spiritual healing and miracles that appeal to people living under socio-economic hardships. Its core beliefs include salvation through faith in Jesus Christ; baptism as a symbol of cleansing from sin; holy communion remembering Christ's sacrifice; and sanctification leading to holy life among others. The global impact of this fervent evangelical movement can be seen not just religiously but also socially and politically: it has fostered community building among marginalized groups providing them with social support systems and promoting values like hard work and self-reliance which have broader societal implications.