

OUR ROOTS: A Concise History of Churches of Christ

Lesson One: Do We Have A History?

Why is it important to study church history?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

When did “Churches of Christ” come into existence?

Do we have a “birthday”?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

THE EARLY AND MEDIEVAL CHURCH

THE REFORMATION

1. Martin Luther (Germany)
2. Huldreich Zwingli (Switzerland)
3. John Calvin (France/Switzerland)
4. the Anabaptist or Radical Reformation

THE CHURCH IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

1. the Church of England or Anglican Church
2. In Scotland, John Knox formed the Presbyterian system

A NEW VIEW OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Have you ever wondered why there are so many different churches in America?

What are the downsides to this “freedom”?

- 1.
- 2.

Why is it that, seemingly, all unity movements evolve into separatist ones?

1. “tradition”
2. “traditionalism”

A CALL FOR RESTORATION

Erasmus

What is the difference between “reformation” and “restoration”?

Who was the first group in America to refer to itself as “Christians” only?

1. James O’Kelly
2. “Cardinal Principles of the Christian Church.”
 - i. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only head of the church.
 - ii. The name Christian should be used to the exclusion of all party and sectarian names.
 - iii. The Holy Bible, or Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is our only creed, and a sufficient rule of faith and practice.
 - iv. Christian character, or vital piety, is the only test of church fellowship and membership.
 - v. The right of private judgment and the liberty of conscience are the privilege and duty of all.
 - vi. The union of all followers of Christ to the end that the world may believe.

What are your thoughts on these six Cardinal Principles of the Christian Church listed above?

Do you believe it to be a good summary of what the church should be?

What would you add or subtract to the list?