

A Brief Outline: TRANSFORMATION - The Church From Apostolic Times To Today

Notes from Chuck Missler; Koinonia House

The Transformation of the Church Through the Ages

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A Brief History of the Evolution of the Christian Church

Compiled from notes from Chuck Missler (Koinonia Institute) 2012

The familiar *institutional church* which we see today has undergone dramatic changes from the time of its inception following Christ’s Resurrection and the start of the Age of Grace. We should as better-informed Biblical Christians, have some awareness of the transformational times and events that have impacted the doctrines first presented to the Apostles. (*Jude 1:3*)

The transforming events following the first church can be traced to politics and persecution from the times of the Roman emperors and following. Later, political forces of pride and politics within the church itself can be traced through the centuries.

Early in the sixteenth century reformers broke away from many of the Roman Catholic doctrines especially from doctrine regarding the way of salvation. Many traditions and doctrines from the Roman tradition especially Augustine in the 4th century, remain ensconced in Protestantism. These are still considered normal fare in Amillennial and Post Millennial Protestant Christianity today.

By way of introduction. Chuck Missler, 1934-2018, was/is a highly creditable Bible teacher with a vast library of in-depth Bible teachings. These are available through his Koinonia House ministry:

K-House was founded by Chuck and Nancy Missler. Chuck, a Naval Academy graduate and former Branch Chief of the Dept. of Guided Missiles, had a remarkable 30-year executive career. He served on the Board of Directors of 12 public companies and was CEO of 6 of them. For twenty years Chuck balanced his high-profile corporate career with his teaching commitment to a weekly Bible study at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa in Southern California. Nancy, while raising their four children, has touched the lives of thousands through her in-depth teaching of Biblical discoveries in her “Way of Agape” and “Be Ye Transformed” books and tape series.

MILE MARKER TIMES AND EVENTS THAT SHAPE THE CHURCH TODAY

31 BC – AD 14 - - Caesar Augustus; Christ was born during his reign

AD 14 - 37 - - The Emperor Tiberius; Christ crucified during his reign

AD 37 - - Caligula Emperor of Rome - - Made an unsuccessful attempt of desecration of Jewish temple.

AD 41 – 54 - - Claudius Caesar

AD 54 – 68 - - Emperor Nero; Blamed Christians for Rome burning; Paul executed in 67 AD. Preterists see Nero as fulfilling pre 70 AD prophecies.

AD 68 - Emperor Galba - - Galba’s reign was just 7 months.

AD 69 Emperors Otho and Vitellius, two short lived emperors within a year.

NICOLAITANES

Nicholas, One of the Seven Jerusalem Deacons

- * Later influenced by Greek Dualism
- * Developed the doctrine of Clergy and Laity, Leaders capture the laity.
- * Nikao, Conquer, above others

* Laity, the common people.

Thus, the clergy:

* Two letters of Clement of Rome (~AD 100)

* Letters of Ignatius of Antioch (AD 110 – 117)

Elevation of the bishop to the autocratic head of the local church.

PERGAMY

AD 220 – Origen introduces infant baptism

AD 312 – Constantine “adopts” Christianity

AD 325 – Edict of Toleration: a state endorsed religion

AD 380 – House churches are outlawed

AD 431 – Council of Ephesus. Mary worship is introduced as the “Mother of God.”

AD 440 – Leo the Great named as “Bishop of Rome.”

AD 445 – Valentinian confirmed as “Spiritual Leader” of the Western church.

AD 500 – A priestly dress code is established.

AD 565 – Justinian: A state ordained churches

STATE CHURCHES

AD 786 – Worship of images and relics develops.

AD 850 – Use of holy water is initiated.

AD 995 – Canonization of dead saints

AD 998 – Fasting on Fridays and before Lent

AD 1070 – Celibacy of the priesthood is initiated.

AD 1090 – Prayer beads adopted from paganism

AD 1184 – The Inquisition begins. Torture and punishment of suspected witches, Jews, etc.

AD 1190 – The sale of indulgences; Sins can be forgiven for a price.

AD 1215 – The doctrine of Transubstantiation of water and wine

AD 1229 – Reading the Bible is forbidden to laymen.

AD 1254 - Pope Innocence IV officially establishes the Inquisition

AD 1414 – Communion cup is forbidden to lay people.

AD 1439 – The doctrine of purgatory is decreed.

AD 1492 – Jews are outlawed from Spain; Columbus voyage aftermath

THE REFORMATION

AD 1517 – Luther's 95 Thesis
Zwingli, Melanchian, Calvin, John Know, and others.

AD 1526 – Reversions to traditional forms of services (vs. "Anabaptists")

AD 1530 – "All lay pastors teaching publicly are to be killed."
Schwenkfeld outlawed and his disciples are jailed.

AD 1600 – There are forty translations from the Latin Bible.

PROTESTANT REACTORS

AD 1535 – 1546 – Anabaptists 30,000 killed.

Labadie's Converting from Pietific Catholic to Reform ~1650.

The Priscilians.

The Bogomilians.

The Petrobusians.

The Patarenians.

The Lollards.

The Waldensians

AD ~ 1400 - 1600 _ The Waldensians, a Protestant group originating in the late 12th century, faced severe persecution throughout their history, particularly during the Middle Ages and the Reformation. Their commitment to lay preaching and scriptural accessibility led to violent reprisals from the Catholic Church and state authorities. Tens of thousands of true believers were massacred by the state church.

AD 1700 – Huguenots.

Claude Brousson, Huguenot preacher and lawyer was publicly executed in 1698 death by breaking on the wheel, before 10,000.

THE CONCEPT OF “THE CHURCH”

A building; Cathedrals or Churches (church houses)

A Special day of worship; Sunday

A Professional Leadership

Priest, Clergyman, Pastor

Special Kinds of Services are Provided for the people.

Ceremonies, Scriptural Interpretations, Spiritual Motivation

A Way to Sustain the Operation

Tithes and Offerings

REGENERATION, GROWTH AND NURTURE

Over 2000 churches planted per week;

Silent exodus; people slipping out the back door, almost unnoticed

People attracted but not maintained;

Interested but not inserted into fellowship;

Harvested but not gathered;

Touched but not transformed;

Stopped to look in but disappointed by what they saw.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

What most of us know as a normal church experience is certainly a far stretch from the church first presented by the apostles of Christ. Conflict has always threatened the form and function of the true church. As for experiencing the Christian life today; Are we wishing for more? For more Love? For more power? Are we only to choose between highly formal “high church” or highly formal evangelical Protestantism? Peter and Jude and John addressed the life of God in our fellowship as did Paul the Apostle to the gentiles.

Paul’s admonition to Timothy gave warnings about the pitfalls of a church without the Power of God extant. He also warned his flock of encroaching apostasy in the last days. Paul advised us to maintain a place in our theology for our Jewish brothers and to look to the promises of prophecy as yet unfulfilled. We stand at a place where we again look and hope for a church blessed with the life and

power known in the earliest time when God's presence and wisdom was steering the enterprise of faith and not just human will and wisdom.

This content was found on a K-House YouTube video.

Missler covered key historical transformation events affecting the church.

Chuck Missler: The Church At The End Of The Age. <https://youtu.be/tCqHjzBBTzE>

From Charles Pinkney: <https://Friendlyarts.net>

July 18, 2026