

CHRISTIANITY



Spread of Christianity

- The disciples plus a new convert named Paul became _____ who spread the _____ (or “good news”) about Jesus
- The new religion spread more quickly among Gentiles than Jews (monotheism without the Judaic law)
- Within a few centuries Christianity became the dominant religion in the Roman Empire

THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL





The Trinity

- Christians came to see God as one Three-In-One
 - The Father = Creator
 - The Son = Redeemer
 - The Holy Spirit = Sustainer
- The doctrine of the trinity is a “_____” of faith.



The Bible

39 books from Jewish scriptures = _____

27 books from early church leaders = _____



Roman Catholic tradition

- In the 4th century AD, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire
- Roman Catholic Church is still the largest single Christian denomination
- Authority on matters of belief and practice rests with church hierarchy; the Bishop of Rome, known as the _____, is at the top
- Emphasis on the _____ as a means of receiving God's grace



The Orthodox Tradition

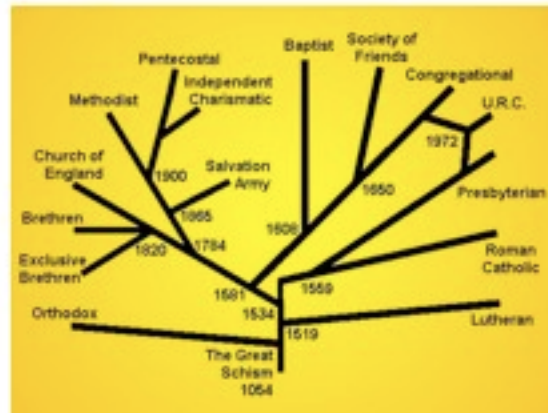
Main form of Christianity in Greece and Russia ("Eastern Orthodox")

- Different church calendar
- No pope
- _____ are used as prayer aids



The Protestant tradition

- Began with _____ in 16th century Germany.
- Emphasis on authority of the Bible and the individual conscience, not church hierarchy or tradition



SPECTRUM OF PROTESTANT BELIEFS

Protestant Christians today represent a wide spectrum of beliefs. One important contrast is between evangelicals/fundamentalists and liberals.

Evangelicals/Fundamentalists

- Believe the Bible was given by God and is _____ on all points
- Believe that Christianity is the only true religion
- Favor "_____ " moral teachings (anti-abortion, see homosexuality as sin, limited leadership roles for women)

Liberals

- The Bible should not always be taken literally; it was written by people, not God
- Believe that other religions are valid paths to the truth
- Favor "_____ " moral teachings (pro-gay rights, all roles open to women)



SEVEN SACRAMENTS*

Baptism

Confirmation

Holy Eucharist

Penance

Anointing of the Sick

Holy Orders

Matrimony



* Christian churches vary in the number of sacraments they observe and the manner in which they observe them

Examples of variation in the sacraments

BAPTISM



COMMUNION



WORSHIP

Christian worship services come in many styles, from highly ritualized, scripted, and formal to casual, expressive, and informal.



A typical _____ worship service focuses on the minister's sermon.



A typical _____ or _____ worship service focuses on the liturgy of the mass.



A typical _____ worship service focuses on praise and ecstatic "speaking in tongues."

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Four Sundays before Christmas the Advent season begins. A new candle is lit each week in anticipation of the birth of Jesus, the "light of the world."
Christmas Day, the commemoration of Jesus' birth, is celebrated on _____.



LENT & HOLY WEEK



40 days before Easter, the season of begins with _____



_____ comes one week before Easter.



_____, just before Easter, commemorates the crucifixion.



Easter is the most important Christian holiday, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in _____ is said to mark the spot of Jesus' empty tomb.