

Copts, Orthodox, Catholics, Nestorians, Cults,  
Evangelicals, Christians, Liberals

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*Cornmeal*

By Larry Wessels

**Bible Text:** John 1:1-14; Matthew 28:18-20

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CAnswersTV – Christian Answers Television

True & False "Christian" Denominations Against the Backdrop of History

with host:

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Director – Christian Answers of Austin, Texas

and guest:

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Research – Christian Answers of Austin, Texas

Larry Wessels. Greetings and welcome once again to our program. I'm Larry Wessels, your host, and I want to thank you for being with us today. This is Christian Answers of Austin, Texas and we're here for another presentation on what we think to be an important subject that Christians eventually will have to deal with one way or another, and the subject for tonight is dealing with a menagerie of different Christian groups, almost like a cornmeal mix of different Christian so-called denominations that go by different names, and the various names that they go by, we'll get into that shortly. But first of all, I want to introduce my very special guest and my partner in this ministry, Steve Morrison, our Director of Research for Christian Answers of Austin, Texas. Steve, thanks for being with us.

Steve Morrison. Alright, well, thank you very much. I'm glad to be here.

Larry. You know, you and I have been doing television together since way back, let's see, this year closing in on almost 30 years now. It's hard to believe, you know, because the first shows we did, I used to have a lot of hair. So, we're debating those Moonies, the

Unification Church, and people can check our YouTube channel. Right now at the time of this recording, we have over 720 videos that we've produced over the last three decades and I think of all those shows we've done together, this is the first time we've done a show together where we weren't in our suits. We usually have our suits and ties and all that kind of stuff, but now with this modern technology, I feel like it's very helpful that you don't have to drive a couple of hundred miles to get here to do these things, and this will give us an opportunity to do more shows on a more frequent basis without having to burn a lot of gas and things like that to do things together. So it's an exciting opportunity with the new technology that we have.

So basically for our viewers at home, Steve is our webmaster. He has done amazing work on our three websites that he runs. In fact, Steve's better qualified to talk about those three websites. Steve, just take a moment to take about the three websites you run for the ministry, Christian Answers, and tell our viewers a little bit about each of those websites before we begin.

Steve. Alright, well, the first one, biblequery.org answers questions about the Bible and it's something like 8,800 questions so far, plus additional information on different religious roots, on different Christian doctrines and practices, and a lot there on church history, especially focusing on early church history prior to Nicea.

The second website, muslimhope.com, and it's for the great hope that Muslims have when they leave Islam and find the real Jesus and it is spelled m-u-s-l-i-m-h-o-p-e.com. And I've read through the Koran cover-to-cover twice, read through all the Hadiths, and have a lot of notes about the things that they say that are surprising probably even to a lot of Muslims, and there's a lot of stuff on there answering questions Muslims have about the Bible, raising questions that either Muslims would ask or maybe they ought to be asking about the Koran and about Mohammad, and looking at that.

Then the third website is historycart.com, is more of just a focus on history and it's like rather than preach the Gospel on the site, I have a lot of the early church fathers because they were pretty good at preaching the Gospel themselves, and so especially focused on early church history and some stuff on the Muslim Hadiths too, but more of a historical site.

Larry. Outstanding. And you've also written four books dealing with Islam and we've pointed that out in some of our previous programs, but what's particularly impressive to me as just a Christian apologist is the work you've done in church history which particularly pertains back to that last website that you mentioned, historycart.com. All in that 18 part video series that we did together on early church history, particularly before Nicea, 325 AD and what was going on there, and as we discuss this menagerie of different "Christian" groups as you're going to be discussing in this particular presentation, church history plays into some of where these groups came from and things like that.

So with that said, I would like you to begin the presentation you prepared for our viewers tonight on these various groups that many people out there that watch our channel, and as a matter of fact, it's interesting that at the time that we're recording this, we just went over 19,000 subscribers on YouTube which is kind of exciting to think that there's actually that many people out there that care about what we're doing over here. So if it could be helpful to them, that's what we're here for, to help the Christian community deal with all the situations and different religions and groups that are out there that oppose Christianity or just truth seekers that want to actually find out more and learn more about what the word of God says in relationship to some of these groups that you're about to mention. So go ahead, Steve, and let our viewers now know about what you've prepared for us tonight.

Steve. Okay. Well, most people, probably most of our viewers, they are familiar with Protestantism or Evangelicalism and they're also familiar with Roman Catholicism and many people, I almost get the idea that those are the only two things that they know about and everyone who claims to be a Christian is either one or the other, and actually that's far from, very far from the truth. You could classify either Christians or people who call themselves Christians in pretty much eight different groups and so the point of this video is to tell people about these groups, also maybe some good points and some bad points about some of them, and then to see what they have in common and to see what their differences are. And we try to be unbiased, objective about this, but we will say up front that both of us are Evangelicals, so unintentionally or whatever, it may be somewhat of an Evangelical perspective but we try to give, I guess, fairness to all the different groups. And another thing about it is so there are other Christians that might disagree with us on secondary matters but they're still genuine brothers and sisters in the Lord, and despite the fact we don't agree on everything, we can still accept them, and there are others that, like, they are different. It's like they don't have the same God and it's not really the same religion at all, and the Bible kind of says things that we kind of have to strike a balance on. For example, Ephesians 4:3-4 says, "preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling." So on one hand we are to preserve peace with other Christians, not just ones we agree with on everything but all other kinds of Christians. However, 1 Timothy 3:1-5 warns us that, "in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents,...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these." So we are not to have unity with these kind of people, we are to be separate from these kind of people because they may have the same name, Christian, but they are not the same at all.

So let's see what churches are out there, what are the different beliefs, and which do we preserve unity with and avoid. And there are about 580 million people in the world who are neither Evangelical, nor are they Roman Catholic, so let's kind of just look at some of the groups.

The first group is called Copts, C-o-p-t-s, or Coptic Christians, and there are about 84 million of them and they are mainly in Egypt, although there are some in Sudan and a few in Libya.

The second group has about 200 million, a pretty large group there of Orthodox. Now there are different kinds of Orthodox churches: Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Serbian Orthodox, Georgian Orthodox, Bulgarian Orthodox. A whole bunch of Orthodox, there's even a very very small Japanese Orthodox, and they mainly differ just on the language spoken in the service. They don't really have too many differences beside that.

The other group that is in CORNMEAL is Roman Catholic and there are about 1.29 billion Roman Catholics, including 55 million in the US. So this means that there are actually a lot more Roman Catholics outside the US than in the US, okay?

Another group is Nestorians. There are only about 800,000 of them around today but they were fairly important historically speaking, and we'll see what happened to them.

The other I kind of lumped together, I call them the multigrain groups. You know, multigrain bread is nuts and various kinds of things in it, well, these have various kinds of things in them too and about 20 million are Seventh Day Adventists, a fairly large group, and then about 16 million Mormons, and 8.3 million Jehovah's Witnesses, and then there are about 2.7 million of others including Moonies, Christian Science, and then there are about 25 million or so, Oneness Pentecostals.

Then after that you have Evangelicals. Now you have Evangelicals who are Protestant. Not all Protestants are Evangelicals and there are about 600 million of them, but not all Evangelicals are Protestant. Okay, there are Charismatics, there are even Charismatic Catholic Evangelicals which is kind of hard to classify in my simple system. There are about maybe 40 million Anglicans around the world who are like Evangelicals and technically speaking, Anglicans and Episcopalians aren't actually Protestant.

Then there are other things like Mennonites but they're fairly small and you don't hear too much of, and then there are Ante-Nicene Christians. Ante, not being against, but ante, a-n-t-e meaning before. So before Nicea. And of course, by definition they are not around today, but at the very end of this presentation, we're going to compare each of these groups to the early Christian and see how similar they were and differences and attempt to answer the question, "Well, which group is closest?"

Then finally, there are about 245 million that are Liberal Protestant or actually about 200 million Liberal Protestant and 45 million Anglican or Episcopalians who are liberal. These are not Roman Catholics, they're not Orthodox. Most of them are Protestant but they are not following the Bible and they're not at all Evangelical.

So if you tell somebody, you know, get involved in the church, well, I'm not sure that's good advice. You should tell them, get involved in a good Bible-believing church, just

not any old church because there are a lot of different churches out there and I'm going to give you just kind of, scratch the surface a little bit of each of these main eight types.

Okay, so CORNMEAL is just basically a mnemonic to kind of have a more digestible form of these classifications and then some of these are wholesome, some are rotten, and some are, well, they aren't horrible but they're just kind of like junk food, and some like Anglicans are kind of split between Evangelicals and Liberals; some Seventh Day Adventists, they're also kind of a split too. So it's kind of hard and I just have to confess there are an estimated 90 million Evangelical Catholics which are both Roman Catholicism and Evangelicals but I just lumped them with the Roman Catholics for the time being because it's kind of hard to divide up. So next we're going to just talk about each of these groups and then we're going to like compare and contrast.

So the first group most people in the West don't know about but the Copts. There are about 85 million Copts. They live mainly in Egypt. There are a few in North America. In Texas there's a Coptic church, for example. There's also little Copts in Eritrea and Syria and things like that.

Now going back into church history here, the Copts were essentially kicked out of the Orthodox Christian church in 451 AD at the Council of Chalcedon, and they were persecuted by the Orthodox.

Larry. One thing I'd like to add here is, and you can see it there on your screen, members of the Coptic Christian Church believe both God and man play roles in salvation. God through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ and humans through works of merit such as fasting, almsgiving and receiving the sacraments. Founded in the first century in Egypt, the Coptic Christian Church shares many beliefs and practices with the Roman Catholic Church and Eastern Orthodox Church. Coptic is derived from a Greek term meaning Egyptian. The Coptic Orthodox Church claims apostolic succession through John Mark, author of the Gospel of Mark. The Copts believe Mark was one of the 72 sent by Christ to evangelize, that's from Luke 10:1. However, the Copts split from the Catholic Church in 451 AD and have their own pope and bishops. The church is steeped in ritual and tradition and places a heavy emphasis on asceticism or denying the self.

Coptic Christian beliefs. Baptism. Baptism is performed by immersing the baby three times in sanctified water. The sacrament also includes a liturgy of prayer and anointing with oil. Under Levitical law, the mother waits 40 days after the birth of a male child and 80 days after the birth of a female child to have the baby baptized. In the case of adult baptism, the person undresses, enters the baptismal font up to their neck and their head is dipped three times by the priest. The priest stands behind a curtain while immersing the head of a woman.

Confession. Copts believe verbal confession to a priest is necessary for the forgiveness of sins. Embarrassment during confession is considered part of the penalty for sin. In confession, the priest is considered a father, judge and a teacher.

Communion. The Eucharist is called "the Crown of Sacraments." Bread and wine are sanctified by the priests during the Mass. Recipients must fast nine hours before communion. Married couples are not to have sexual relations on the eve or day of communion and menstruating women may not receive communion.

Trinity. Copts hold up monotheistic belief in the Trinity, three persons in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, the life-giver. God lives by his own Spirit and had no other source. Jesus Christ. Christ is a manifestation of God, the living Word sent by the Father as a sacrifice for humanity's sins.

The Bible. The Coptic Christian Church considers the Bible "an encounter with God and an interaction with him in a spirit of worship and piety."

Creed. Athanasius, 296-373 AD. A Coptic bishop in Alexandria, Egypt was a staunch opponent of Arianism. The Athanasian Creed, an early statement of faith, is attributed to him.

Saints and Icons. Copts venerate, that's worship, but they say they are not worshipping saints and icons which are images of saints and Christ painted on wood. The Coptic Christian Church teaches that saints act as intercessors for the prayers of the faithful.

Salvation. Coptic Christians teach that both God and man have roles in human salvation. God through Christ's atoning death and resurrection, man through good works which are the fruits of faith which, in this case would violate Ephesians 2:8-10 which clearly says it's not of works lest any man should boast, it's by the grace of God, but they say that man through their good works has a role in their salvation.

Coptic Christian Practices.

Sacraments. Copts practice seven sacraments: baptism, confirmation, confession/penance, the Eucharist/communion, matrimony, unction of the sick and ordination. Sacraments are considered a way to receive God's grace, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and remission of sins.

Fasting. Fasting plays a key role in Coptic Christianity, taught as "an offering of inward love offered by the heart as well as the body." Abstaining from food is equated with abstaining from selfishness. Fasting means contrition and repentance mixed with spiritual joy and consolation.

Worship Service. Coptic Orthodox churches celebrate the Mass which includes traditional liturgical prayers from a lectionary, readings from the Bible, singing or chanting, almsgiving, a sermon, consecration of the bread and wine, and communion. The order of service has changed little since the first century. Services are usually held in the local language.

Copts are really nothing more than the works righteousness for salvation religious brothers of Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodoxy, meaning they are following the same type of false Gospel as described in Galatians 1:6-9, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Steve. To give you a little rundown on theology, Christians believe that Jesus was 100% man, fully man, fully human, except, of course, without sin, and he was fully God. He wasn't like semi-human, I mean he was fully human. He wasn't semi-God or a lesser God or a separate God but he was fully divine. He was fully God. So they believe [unintelligible]. Now Copts in almost like their arch-nemesis and historian, they all believe identical on that, okay? But the difference is what about Jesus' human nature and his divine nature? Are they distinct or are they merged all together? And the Copts, well, Orthodox Christian would say that they are distinct, they're not all mixed together, and we don't understand how, this is a mystery but the Bible just teaches both and I'll leave it at that. But the Copts, originally the monophysites, which is the Copts are monophysites, they say it was like they were mixed, sort of like if you put a teaspoon full of tea in the ocean, they're mixed together but does it really look more like tea or really look more like ocean? So if you put the teaspoon of Christ's humanity in the ocean of his divinity, they're kind of mixed together and this is kind of problematic because does that mean that Christ because he's divine didn't really feel the suffering? Or did Christ just kind of, you know, glided through life without any problems? And so they were kicked out of the church for that and it was kind of an ugly situation.

Later on, much later on, there was a group of Copts, they were called not monophysites but miaphysites, and the Coptic Church today is pretty much miaphysite, and what that means is they say, "Well, the divine and human parts of Christ, they are merged together but they still have separate compartments." Now that might sound to you like they're splitting hairs but basically kind of what that does is it gives them continuity with the original Coptic Church so they say that, you know, they're not rejecting that but when they say there are separate compartments, that kind of makes them a lot like Christians. And as a matter of fact, the Roman Catholic Church and Coptic Church had a partial reconciliation in 2017, so they recognize each other's baptisms but they still don't take the Lord's Supper together.

So Copts could be genuine believers. If they're miaphysite, it's like, well, in our opinion as Evangelicals, some unfortunate way of saying things, but with the miaphysites it's like, you know, they are maybe not too far off about something that in the Bible is fundamentally a mystery anyway, okay?

In the Coptic Church, they use leavened bread in the Lord's Supper. They allow children to partake of the Lord's Supper and they all partake from the same loaf of bread, just kind of some cultural thing.

Anybody know who the first pope was? And this will be a surprise to people. Alright, nobody was called the pope until Heraclas of Alexandria and he was the pope in Alexandria. He was never in Rome. This is about 232 to 249 AD where he was called the pope, kind of like head of the other bishops. So nobody in Rome was called the pope, this was the first idea, okay?

Also in the Coptic Bible, you think about it, the New Testament is the same for these different groups, the Old Testament, the Jews what they call the Tanach, the Old Testament is the same Old Testament the Protestants have and Copts and Roman Catholics and Orthodox and everybody else has the same Old Testament as Protestants plus they have some extra books. Now here's where it gets complicated. The Copts have 1, 2 and 3 Maccabees, Baruch, Ecclesiasticus, also called Sirach, Tobit, Wisdom of Solomon, Judith, and additions to Daniel and Esther, however, under Cyril V in 1874-1927, they rejected these extra books. So they sound kind of interesting and also in some Coptic churches, they might have Awanas, which Evangelicals know and love as a fine organization for teaching the Bible to young people. So that's kind of it for the Copts.

Larry. I thought it was interesting that you mentioned just to reiterate, about the pope. So just in case anyone missed it out there, the Copts basically would deny the apostolic succession of the popes of the See of Rome going back to Peter as the Roman Catholics claim. They basically are arguing, and as you stated in the church history thing from Heraclas, that he was the first pope before the Roman Catholics ever had any claim to any pope according to early church history.

The first person to be called the pope was Heraclas of Alexandria, 236-249 AD. The Copts trace their popes from him, not Roman Catholics. The first Roman bishop to call himself a pope was Siricius, circa 384-399 AD, after Nicea. Athanasius, born circa 296 or possibly 298, died 373 AD, was called a pope and he called the Roman bishop a pope prior to Siricius. So the Copts have prior claim to a pope, not Roman Catholics.

A Roman Catholic today cannot consider the Copts as non-Christians since the Roman Catholic Church in more recent times has restored communion with the Coptic Church. Furthermore, the Greek Orthodox Church, also known as Eastern Orthodoxy, which Orthodox people would argue goes back farther than the Roman Catholic Church, never needed a pope. You can get your reference from this off our website at [www.historycart.com](http://www.historycart.com).

We actually document a lot of that in that 18 part series you and I did that's there on YouTube on our playlist on early church history. So anyone that wants to go into that, are welcome to do it and, of course, your website, historycart.com, also gives some of this stuff too. So anyway, I just wanted to bring that information in there since you're now getting ready to move on to another group here. So go ahead, Brother.

Steven. Well, one last thing, the Copts still have a pope today and the Coptic popes don't really come up with brand new doctrines or send people off to war or anything like that. They're pretty much role is just kind of to preserve, you know, what they're already teaching more or less.

Larry. Now that's interesting because if you're saying that you've got a pope, you're basically denying a Roman Catholic pope, but that almost suggest a similarity in overall doctrine. In other words, if the Roman Catholics have a pope and the Copts have a pope, maybe they have similar things like maybe water baptism for salvation, the sacraments, things that are typical in Roman Catholicism you might also find in the Coptic religion. Is that correct?

Steve. There are similar and actually the Copts don't necessarily deny the Roman pope, they just say there is more than one pope. So the Roman Catholic pope has been to Egypt before and the two popes have met and talked and, as I said before, they do have a degree of communion between the two churches. So right now they aren't necessarily anti-Catholic but they are different and they've had popes before there was any pop in Rome. So if someone talks about the pope today, you should ask them, "Well, which one do you mean?"

Larry. Well, it's sort of like at the time we're recording this video, there's actually in the Roman Catholic Church, they've got two living popes right now. They've got Pope Francis and the other guy that's still alive, Pope Benedict, although he kind of, I forgot the term they use for it but he sort of retired while he's still alive. Usually they just die and they replace them.

Steve. Well, this certainly isn't the first time and we'll get into that a lot more.

Larry. Exactly. Exactly. Okay, go ahead.

Steve. These popes like each other [unintelligible]. We'll get into that a little bit.

So anyway, in our mnemonic CORNMEAL, that was the Copts. We'll move on to the next one, Orthodox, also called Eastern Orthodox. Some people call it Greek Orthodox but that's not really that good a term because you have Albanian Orthodox, Bulgarian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, you've got lots and lots of Orthodox and they're very similar to each other. There are actually about 17 different Orthodox churches.

Now in the Roman Catholic Church, we think of all the pictures and all the statues and everything, well, the Orthodox Church is different. They have even more pictures than the Roman Catholic Church. It's even more prominent there, however, in the Orthodox Church, they don't really have statues but lots and lots of pictures which they call icons.

Larry. In fact, that was part of the reason they had a schism. They were arguing about statues and icons and the one liked the statues and the other one liked the icons. That was one of the reasons they were fighting.

Steve. One reason that wasn't stated was who has the power. Is the pope in Rome over everybody or not? I think that was the real reason, but a second reason which was a stated reason was, was the Holy Spirit sent from the Father or was the Holy Spirit sent by the Father and Jesus.

Larry. Yes, that was part of it, you're right.

Steve. It seems like, well, the Bible kind of shows, you know, you can say it either way but I think that that was kind of magnified to cover the real reason which, I think, was does the Roman Church have power over all other churches or not and the Orthodox Church would say no.

But anyway, even though the Orthodox Church was real big on icons, there is a brief period in their history where they weren't and this was under Emperor Leo I who has been called the Iconoclast, like destroyer of icons. He reigned from 754-787 AD and after he died, everything kind of went back to the way it was, okay?

Now curiously, what are these icons of? Okay, well, they are icons of various saints and prophets and things like that. What about icons about God? Alright, well, the Greek Orthodox has fairly consistently said you shouldn't have any graven image of God, and in other videos we'll get into the arguments pro and con. The Russian Orthodox Church differs from the Greek Orthodox Church. Their main difference, one of the main differences is on this point. They do have icons of the Father as well as the Son and the Holy Spirit, while the Greek Orthodox, they have icons of Jesus but they don't have icons of the Holy Spirit or the Father, okay? And we'll get into it later what these icons of Jesus looked like at various points in history and why.

So the Orthodox, unfortunately, they persecuted Jews in 628 AD and they persecuted Copts from 527-568 AD and 572 AD. Besides that, though, they weren't into persecution, persecuting others that much and that's in contrast to the next group we're going to talk about, the Roman Catholics. A big contrast there.

You have the pope in the Roman Catholic Church, in the Orthodox Church, you have the patriarch. Okay, they're both the top guy in their group but they look at them kind of differently. A patriarch is kind of more like a governor while the pope might be more similar to an emperor. For example, the Greek Orthodox Church would freely admit that a patriarch could be a heretic. While the Roman Catholics are very big on papal succession, the Greek Orthodox, you don't hear as much about patriarchal succession. For example, Nestorius who was considered a heretic, he was the patriarch of the Orthodox Church for a while before he was kicked out at the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD. So they aren't as, their top leader doesn't have such a strong role in Greek Orthodox

as Roman Catholic, and the other Orthodox churches, their language, they would have a patriarch too but, again, he would not have as strong a role as the Roman pope.

They don't believe in original sin so they don't hold to the Roman Catholic doctrine of Mary's immaculate conception, okay?

They celebrate Christmas in January. Actually we don't know on the day when Christ was born, so celebrating in December is okay biblically and celebrating in January is okay. I'm not criticizing for that, just pointing out out of a cultural difference.

Priests can be celibate their whole lives or they can be married but they can only be married once. The Bible doesn't forbid priests from marrying so if a priest, someone married wants to be a priest, you know, the Orthodox Church looks in their Bible and says, "Okay." And the Orthodox Church, though, it's not really emphasized in the Roman Catholic, they believe in this doctrine called theosis or deification of a person. So they believe that a person on earth can share in God's divinity and they can even join the Godhead and become free from sin in this life. So that's kind of different. The Roman Catholic Church, you don't really hear that from them and certainly don't hear that from Evangelicals but the Orthodox churches teach that. That is a big difference.

The Lord's Supper, they use leavened bread like the Copts. They allow children to partake. Then, babies are, usually in Roman Catholic churches, babies are sprinkled as well as in the Presbyterian and Lutheran and Methodist, while in many other churches, you know, we are dipped, we are immersed as believers. Well, Orthodox churches are a little different, they immerse infants, okay? The Western Orthodox Church, they really value baptism and sometimes they do sprinkling in baptism, in fact, sometimes they sprinkle cars to baptize cars to bless the cars. Now you know they use sprinkling because baptizing cars and immersion don't go too well together, so they're practical there, alright?

Larry. Also known as a car wash.

Steve. So we can go into a lot more on Eastern Orthodox and we will, but I was just going to kind of stop there just to give you a little thumbnail sketch.

Larry. Okay, because Eastern Orthodox, that has sometimes been known as the twin sister of Roman Catholicism with the exclusion of the things that you mentioned, the exceptions to the things you've already mentioned here.

Somebody wrote in and asked a question about what are the main differences between Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism and here was my response on YouTube to that question. The Eastern Orthodox Church is not a single church but rather a family of 13 self-governing bodies denominated by the nation in which they are located, e.g. the Greek Orthodox Church, Russian Orthodox Church and so forth, whatever the country they are, that's what they're basically, if it's in Bulgaria, it would be the Bulgarian

Orthodox Church. They are united in their understanding of the sacraments, doctrine, liturgy and church government but each administers its own affairs.

The head of each Orthodox Church is called a patriarch or metropolitan. The patriarch of Constantinople, which is now Istanbul, Turkey, is considered the ecumenical or universal patriarch. He is the closest thing to a counterpart to the pope in the Roman Catholic Church. Unlike the pope who is known as Vicarius Filii Dei, meaning the Vicar of the Son of God, the bishop of Constantinople is known as Primus Inter Pares, meaning the first among equals. He enjoys special honor but he has no power to interfere with the 12 other Orthodox communions.

Eastern Orthodoxy is very similar to Roman Catholicism in denying clear biblical doctrines and replacing them with heretical doctrines instead. 1. Claiming to be the one true church of Christ going back 2,000 years while all others are not despite historical facts proving this to be false. 2. The denial of justification by faith alone, which then is replaced with a works righteousness system of Church related sacraments. 3. The equal authority of Church traditions and Scripture, so they put their traditions on the same plane as the word of God. 4. Discouragement of individuals interpreting the Bible apart from Greek Orthodox or Eastern Orthodox tradition. 5. The perpetual virginity of Mary. 6. Prayer for the dead. 7. The possibility of receiving salvation after death.

The Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church has been in a state of official schism from one another since the East/West schism of 1054. The schism was caused by historical and linguistic developments and the ensuing theological differences between the Western and Eastern churches.

Main points of discontent between Eastern Orthodoxy and the Catholic Church are the papal primacy and the filioque clause. The filioque is a Latin term added to the original Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed commonly known as the Nicene Creed in which has been the subject of great controversy between Eastern and Western Christianity. The Latin term filioque describes the Holy Spirit as proceeding from both the Father and the Son and not from the Father only. In the Nicene Creed, it is translated by the English phrase "and from the Son. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeded from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified." For Eastern Orthodox, the main point of discontent is voiced by Neo-Palamism which sees the essence energy distinction and the experiential vision of God as obtained in theoria and theosis as the main point of divergence between East and West. Orthodoxy emphasizes theosis, literally divinization, the gradual process by which Christians become more and more like Christ. What many in the Orthodox tradition fail to understand, divinization is the progressive result of salvation, not a requirement for salvation itself.

The following is a list of Eastern Orthodox theological distinctives.

1. The Church. Eastern Orthodoxy sees itself as the Church, one, holy, catholic and apostolic which alone has faithfully maintained Christ's truth through unbroken continuity with the apostles.
2. Apostolic Tradition. That tradition to which the Church is called as guardian, is made up of the Bible, true Councils, the church fathers, liturgy, canon law and icons. So all these things have been raised to the same importance as the word of God.
3. The Triune God. Eastern Orthodoxy views the Trinity as the essence of their faith, "the catholic truth above all other." That's why they have a lot of icons of the Trinity.
4. Creation and the Fall. Though God created man with free will and rationality, Adam stood in a state of undeveloped simplicity. When he fell, he fell "not from a great height of knowledge and perfection, hence he is not to be judged too harshly for his error." The deteriorating effects of Adam's sin (death, disease) extended to his descendants, but his guilt did not.
5. Salvation and Sacrament. Once Adam initiated the deterioration of human nature, God desired to reverse the process by means of Christ's incarnation. "God descends to the world and becomes man and man is raised to divine fullness and becomes god." Thus they describe salvation as "deification or theosis" – the process of becoming metaphysically united with God's divine energies. "We remain creatures while becoming God by grace, as Christ remained God in becoming man by incarnation."
6. Eastern Orthodoxy loudly repudiates Plato only to embrace Plotinus, whose Neo-Platonic system has been openly cultivated into every aspect of Eastern Orthodox theology, from God's degrees of being to human deification. Such obvious paganism flies in the face of the first commandment. See also Colossians 2:8.
7. Subjugation of Scripture. Christ reserved some of his most heated denunciations for that ecclesiastical body which subjugated God's revelation to human tradition. Eastern Orthodoxy attempts to evade this charge by claiming to preserve only divine tradition but the Pharisees made the same claim. Those who attempt to suppress God's covenantal word invite on themselves the curses of the covenant.
8. Church as Emperor. With God's written revelation suppressed due to its "obscurity," the ecclesiastics took over the supreme position. Once the "church leaders" rule over God's word, then this "church" organization ceases to be Christ's church.
9. Salvation without the Cross. Since deification is grounded in the incarnation rather than the atonement, Christ's cross becomes, in principle, non-essential, a quaint side-show in deification. Discussions of substitutionary atonement and propitiation are virtually absent from their published explanations of salvation.
10. Glorification by Human Discipline. Eastern Orthodoxy attempts to evade the charge of self-salvation by appealing to the foundational grace shown in the incarnation. Rome

speaks of merit and the East, that's Eastern Orthodoxy, speaks of acquisition, but both substitute human effort for Christ's effort.

11. Arrogant Worship. Eastern Orthodoxy shows no concern for conforming any aspect of its worship to the requisites of the Lord. They rejoice in imitating the inferior worship of the old covenant temple and shallowly overturn the ancient prohibition on venerating images with their statues, icons and sacrifices.

Both Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism fall under the curse of Galatians 1:6-9 since both clearly have a different Gospel than the one the Bible teaches.

We currently have two videos available at the time of this recording on Eastern Orthodoxy called "Eastern Orthodoxy, salvation by earned works, icons, tradition, deification, and the Virgin Mary," and the link is there; and the other video called "Eastern Orthodoxy, spiritual death or spiritual life, twin sister of Roman Catholicism and dead works," at that particular link listed there. We also have 171 videos concerning Roman Catholicism on our playlist on the link listed there. You can usually find that link on virtually any of our videos on Roman Catholicism by just going to any of those videos and looking down in the description text of any one of them and find the playlist link if you needed to find it that way. Of course, remember 2 Timothy 4:2-5.

Go ahead, go ahead with your analysis.

Steve. In discussing CORNMEAL, we discussed the Copts for C, the Orthodox for O, and then R is Roman Catholicism. Now catholic, by the way, means universal and you'll say, "So do you believe in the universal church?" Well, yeah. "Do you believe the Catholic Church?" Hm, depends what you mean by that. Universal church, yes, Roman Catholic Church, well, that's different.

Anyway, there are about 1.29 billion Roman Catholics worldwide, about 55 million in the US. A strange statistic: about 1 in 5 Americans are ex-Catholic. So people leave the Roman Catholic Church and it's not uncommon and I think there's been a lot recently because of the prior scandals, you know, with the priests using little boys and things like that.

Now going back in history, who was the first person who was called the pope and who was the first person who called himself a pope? Well, no one was called a pope until Julius of Rome in 347 AD and actually Athanasius was at the same time he was called the pope in Alexandria. Athanasius in Alexandria, Julius in Rome. Siricius in 384-399 AD, he was the first to call himself the pope but before then they didn't have this idea of a pope. That's kind of a post-Nicean invention.

Why would people think that the popes came from Peter and they were all successors of Peter? Well, they had the documents to prove it beyond a shadow of a doubt. From 847-859 AD there were these documents that appear that prove Peter and his successors were the head of all of the churches. These are called the false decretals and by 1100 AD, they

were proved to be forgeries and so even Roman Catholic scholars today, they will admit the decretals are forgeries but they were very instrumental in their time to get everybody under the pope and consolidate his power. So a lot of that was based upon a huge lie. It's almost like it hijacked the Church.

Now the Eastern Orthodox, for whatever reason, they never really bought into that lie but at least in Western Europe, it like hijacked the Church. As a matter of fact, there was a synod in England in Whitby where you had these Christians from the time of Patrick of Ireland in 450 AD who were spreading the Gospel and sharing and do you know that the monastery in Salsburg, that was first founded by missionaries, where? From Ireland. Anyway, the Irish missionaries were saying that Easter should be celebrated one day and the ones from Rome were saying another day, so they called a synod in Whitby to peacefully iron out their differences and it was finally decided you had to go with Rome because if Peter had the keys to heaven, you don't want to be on Peter's bad side. So the Irish all went with the Roman way because it was proven to them and they had the proof, they had these pieces of paper, the false decretals. So while that's not really an issue today, that was a big deal in that time.

The Roman Catholic Church, and sorry to bore you with dates here, but I just want to make a point here. They persecuted Jews in the West in 554 AD, 561 AD, 582 AD, 628 AD, 638 AD, 646 AD, 847 AD, 1096 AD, 1121 AD. I'll keep going but I will put in the paper. You kind of get the idea here, they were violent guys.

As far as papal succession goes, let's see what happened. There was a synod and it's called the Cadaver Synod, cadaver meaning a dead person. This is where Pope Formosus, the pope of Rome that is, he was dug up from his grave and he was tried and convicted of heresy. This happened in 897 AD. So much for papal succession when the guy before you, you yourself convicted as heretic.

Larry, earlier you were talking about the Great Schism between the Catholic and Orthodox, well the Great Schism that kind of happened permanently was in 1054 AD where the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches mutually excommunicated each other. All Catholic churches in Orthodox lands were closed down by the Orthodox and the Orthodox churches in Catholic lands were closed down too. Both sides repealed this in 1964, which wasn't that long ago.

The Roman Catholic Church launched eight crusades from 1189 to 1272 to capture Israel, but one crusade was to capture Constantinople and allow the relics and Church treasures in Constantinople all were stolen, robbed essentially and taken back to Rome and that was a crusade for God to do this, which is kind of hard to explain.

Larry. That's interesting you mention that because here you've got a Roman Catholic army going over there in a crusade and they attack the Eastern Orthodox city of Constantinople and because of that attack, military action, we're talking death and violence, that severely weakened Constantinople and that allowed the Muslims to come along later and actually take the city because they were so weakened already from their

war with the supposed Christian army that came over there and they had to fight them off. Then the Muslims come later and then take over the place because they've already been weakened from a previous war with the crusaders. So anyway, I just thought I'd throw that in.

Steve. But right before the Muslims took over, though, the people in Constantinople, they appealed to Rome and to the West and said, "Send an army and come and save us from the Muslims," and the answer they got was, "Okay, we will come if you submit to the pope," and the people of Constantinople or the leaders said, "Well, it would be better to submit to the Muslims than the pope." So the army never came.

Larry. Never came. The Muslims took over Constantinople and it's now known to this day as Istanbul.

Steve. Right. And afterwards, the Muslims kept advancing and they went all the way up to the end of Austria which they besieged, and then the people of Europe, both Roman Catholics and Protestants, had a temporary peace and combined an army and drove the Muslims back. So, you know, it caused a lot of trouble for the rest of Europe because Constantinople was kind of like a bulwark stopping the Muslims from going to the rest of Europe.

There was another crusade besides those nine crusades, there was another one from 1487-1545. This is a little bit later one. This was against the Waldenses. Now the Waldenses were these Christians who lived primarily in rural areas in Northern Italy in the mountains and in France, Southern France, and in Northeast Spain, and the Waldenses were started by a guy named Waldo, as in "Where's Waldo" or whatever. But the Waldenses, they looked through the Bible and they were confused. They could not find purgatory for the life of them anywhere in the Bible. They couldn't find transubstantiation. They couldn't find a whole lot of stuff that the Roman Catholic Church said was true. So what the Waldenses thought is they thought, "We're not going to raise a big fuss about this. We're just going to have our own priests and we're just going to worship ourselves and we're just going to follow what the Bible says." Now they were a little bit reactionary, they only celebrated the Lord's Supper twice a year because they didn't want people to start worshipping the bread or anything like that, but anyway, because they said, "We just want to follow the Bible and just worship God in simplicity," the Roman Catholic Church, the pope issued a Bull, which is an official pronouncement from the papal chair, to wipe them out, to commit genocide against the Waldenses and they sent armies to try to wipe them out.

Now the Waldenses suffered from that but because they were in mountains and rural areas, they were hard to hunt down so they did survive. They survived until the time of the Reformation when there was a big meeting between them and some of the Reformers and then all the Waldenses decided to become Protestant and you say that was the end of the Waldenses. Well, it was but they still kind of maintained their culture, so if you see anything that says like the Waldensian Church, that would be a Presbyterian Church with Waldensian roots or Valdivia actually kind of came from that name too. So culturally,

they kind of survived within the Reformed movement. But anyway, they were supposedly wiped out by, again, the most violent of all the eight groups that we're going to talk about, you know, the Roman Catholics, alright?

Another thing about papal succession, in 1302, King Philip of France tortured Pope Boniface VIII for heresy, or at least King Philip of France said he was a heretic, and after him he put in a new pope and Pope Clement V was basically France's puppet. So again, so much for papal succession when your previous pope, your successor was tortured by the king that put you in power.

Also, Joan of Arc, who was burned at the stake, why? For being a heretic, and actually Joan of Arc knew her theology pretty well and she did not have any strange heretical beliefs except for one thing, she was French and she thought that the French shouldn't be under England. Coincidentally, the pope at that time was English. So anyway, because she was a heretic and burned at the stake, and of course, you know, heretics would go to hell, right? Well, anyway, within 50 years they had another pope and she was proclaimed to be a Roman Catholic saint. So how does that work? Did this Joan of Arc go to hell because she was a heretic and the Roman Catholic Church is always right about this and then 50 years later she went from hell to heaven? Or was something very wrong here with that official pronouncement because Roman Catholics say that the pope made mistakes but in his official announcements he's always right.

Well, it seemed pretty official to Joan of Arc who was burned at the stake for that and the other Bull against the Waldenses, that's as official as they get.

Larry. That's interesting that you bring up these things because maybe people out there in the internet land don't realize that our channel, CAnswersTV and our YouTube channel, it has over 720 videos but of those 720 videos we have 165 of those videos are dealing with the subject of Roman Catholicism, 165 videos, and of those 165, we've got a very interesting video by a former Roman Catholic priest, Richard Bennett, he was a Roman Catholic priest, a Dominican priest, for 22 years and then he got born again and he got saved. But he goes into Church history on the Roman popes and how many of them were murdered within their own ranks because there are power plays going on among these people that were vying to become popes. So you're just touching just the bare tip of the iceberg of all the chicanery and nefarious activities that are going on with that situation. But that's a whole show in itself, but I just wanted to briefly throw that out. If people want more information, just go to our 165 videos that we have on that.

Steve. Larry, you mentioned earlier multiple popes being alive at the same time. Well, there were three different popes at the time of the Council of Constance. Now these were all active popes and each of them said that they were the one and only true pope. Anyway, in the Council of Constance in 1414-1418, there was a Church Council that basically reduced these three popes down to only one, they also asked Jan Hus, who was from Bohemia, the modern-day Czech Republic, to come and debate his views, and the Emperor gave him a promise of safe conduct and once he got there, the Catholic Church arrested him and burned him at the stake. Later on, they wanted to discuss with the

Hussites and they invited him, the pope, to come and discuss and they promised and they said, "We'll give you the same assurance, the same safe conduct that you gave Jan Jus." Anyway, he didn't come.

I will point out that modern Roman Catholicism has changed. While medieval Roman Catholicism said that if you were something else beside Roman Catholic, especially if you were one of these Protestants or whatever, you would definitely go to hell.

Larry. Alright, as Steve was recounting some of the historical information about the popes, I have some additional information here concerning that as we see on the screen. Historical account of the popes through the ages according to Roman Catholic apologists, and the viewers at home can see we have all these popes supposedly an unbroken chain of popes starting with Pope Peter, the Apostle Peter in 32 AD, as you can see there, through 67. Then all these other Roman Catholic popes going from the popes of the age of persecution, as it says here, going into the second century, the third century, the fourth century. You can just keep looking down the list of all these popes, fifth century, sixth century, popes of the early Middle Ages, seventh century, eighth century, ninth century, tenth century, eleventh century, going on to popes of the age of crusades and councils in the eleventh century. Then the twelfth century, thirteenth century, popes of the Avignon papacy, and the Great Schism.

Steve. Seventy years, there were two simultaneous popes, one in France, one in Rome, and they both claimed to be the sole pope and it was nicknamed by some Catholics the Babylonian Captivity.

Larry. Ah, very good. Very good. I see we've got Boniface VIII right in there in 1294-1303. Then going on to the fourteenth century, the viewers at home, if you really want to look at these lists in detail, just freeze-frame your video on YouTube and then you can read through all these supposed popes that the Roman Catholic Church has had. Fifteenth century, sixteenth century, popes of the age of revolution. Then we have the seventeenth century, the eighteenth century, the nineteenth century, then you have the popes of the modern age in the nineteenth century, and then when you get up to the twentieth century when we look into these final two popes here, we've got Pope Benedict XVI from 2005-2013, and the 266<sup>th</sup> pope, Pope Francis from 2013 and following. Now the last two popes were currently living at the same time at the time of this writing. So that's supposedly according to the Roman Catholics, 266 popes in an unbroken chain, although as Steve said earlier, there were like three popes at one time, then we've got two popes here that are living at the current time, and you just mentioned something about one pope in France and some pope somewhere else.

Steve. In Rome, yeah.

Larry. So no matter what, that leads to problems of just making the list when you have multiple popes at the same time which Roman Catholics, a lot of them will admit to, but still, it's very problematic for proving their case.

Then looking here, you can see it says see former Roman Catholic priests for 22 years, Richard Bennett's video called "Vatican System, list of murdered popes, 75 popes approved torture, murder, burning at the stake."

Richard Bennett. Seventy-five popes, one after the other, from Innocent III to Pope Pius VII approved of torture, murder, burning at the stake, confiscation of property of believers. That's six centuries, that actually was 605 years of the Inquisition. It wasn't just believers, it was also Jews who were also tortured and burned at the stake. Knights Templar was an order within the Catholic Church that had rebelled against the Catholic Church, they were also tortured and brought to the stake, but principally believers. I ask you to look at the video that we have made on the Inquisition called "The Catholic Inquisition and the Torture Tools." By the end of this year in English alone because it's in other languages as well, the subtitles. It'll have been viewed over half a million times by the end of this year. It is graphic in showing the actual pictures of torture. You can still find them in museums in Europe and we've got pictures of the actual tortures, the torture implements. Some of them are horrific to look at. And we've got some video footage made professionally with due permission, showing what it was like to be burned at the stake or tortured by the Church of Rome, and all of that is in that video. I would ask if you have children watching it, that you really get them ready beforehand or you might think it's not suitable when you see the torture and you see what believers went through and others, Jews, Knights Templar. It's horrific but that's a video that must be seen.

The horrendous system, the glorious Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century brought a change and that you would know. Biblical faith was restored. Rights of people were restored. The first time that nations really became nations, it was after the Reformation that we got the nation states were set up. And we had great men preaching the true Gospel of Christ. It was amazing what happened at the Reformation.

Other popes were murdered besides John Paul I and I would recommend David Yallop's book. You will see a picture of the cover on the screen. The murder of John Paul I, an investigation into the murder. That book has been well-known and still sells very well even a second time copy. The murder of John Paul I.

But there are other murders, for example, in history Stephen VII in 897. He died, he was strangled to death. And Stephen IX in 972 was mutilated. Then we have John XII in 964. He was just murdered. Benedict VI was strangled in 974. John XIV 984 was starved to death. Gregory V in 999 was poisoned. Clement II in 1047 also was poisoned. Damasus II was murdered in 1048. Pope Pius XI, 1939, was allegedly assassinated. Then later in our own times in 2013, Ratzinger who was then Pope Benedict XVI, appears to have been forced to resign or else face the consequences.

So it's interesting, even the popes themselves are dictated to by the system. Very few people realize and these historical deaths of murders and strangulation and poisoning of popes in previous times is quite interesting.

Larry. Now if you want to see a full list of some of these popes as we just saw there and where this information is coming from, you can see here on this page the reference material for that, and you can also see a chronological list of popes who were alleged to have been murdered such as John VIII, 872-882, allegedly poisoned and then clubbed to death. You have Adrian III, 884-885, allegedly poisoned. You also have Leo V, 903, allegedly strangled. John X, 914-928, allegedly smothered with pillows. Stephen VII (the VIII), 929-931, allegedly murdered. Sergius IV, 1009-1012, allegedly murdered. Clement II, 1046-1047, allegedly poisoned. And as you go through this list and it's all right there for the viewers at home to look at this thing, we see murders, poisonings, ill treatment. You've got Boniface VIII, 1294-1305, death possibly though unlikely from the effects of ill treatment one month before.

You have a lot of poisonings going on here as you're reading through this list of these popes dying and, of course, that's a power position to be a pope so there's a lot of political intrigue in who gets to be the pope and you need a lot of influence. It's just like reading the Old Testament in a lot of cases when you see the kings of Israel, the northern kingdom, all those wicked kings in the northern kingdom after David and Solomon. It seems like a lot of them were killed off and their throne was taken by the murderer.

Steve. Yeah, and Larry, even if the successor pope wasn't the one who killed his predecessor pope, he was typically put in power by the people who killed the predecessor popes. So, so much for Catholic succession.

Larry. There you go. There you go. But anyway, the information is there on your screen. You can see that. Then one last thing here I'd like to mention and this is actually, and I definitely want Steve's comment here, this is a response Steve gave to me a while back when I was answering some Roman Catholic on YouTube who had made a comment and I said it to Steve because he's our expert on church history. As you can see here, this is actually Steve's reply that he sent to me that I then posted on YouTube. In fact, I liked his comment so much, I posted it on all 165 of our videos. So anyone that goes down into the comment section of any of our videos on Roman Catholic dogmas, doctrine, religion, they're going to run right into Steve and here's his comment.

It says, well, he's replying to this. "Does the Roman Catholic religion really have a 2,000 year old history as Roman Catholics constantly argue for? Again and again Romanists argue that their Roman Church organization and its hierarchy go back to Pope Peter in the first century. Our Director of Research, Steve Morrison, webmaster for [www.historycart.com](http://www.historycart.com) which deals with early Christian church history, [www.biblequery.org](http://www.biblequery.org) which answers over 8,500 Bible questions." Now that's higher now. That's higher now. You're always...

Steve. It's about 8,900 now.

Larry. Yeah, so you see, whenever I put something on paper a few months ago, it's already a lot more by the last time I put it. So by the time people actually see this on YouTube, it'll probably be over 9,000. But anyway, here it says 8,500 but it's always

going up because Steve's constantly answering questions on that website. We also have a third website that Steve does, [www.muslimhope.com](http://www.muslimhope.com) which refutes the false religion of Islam created by Mohammad.

Here's what Steve had to say in reply to this comment about the Roman Catholic religion's 2,000 year history. Here's what Steve said, "Hi. Just a little correction here. It was said, 'yet only the Catholic Church and its 2,000 year history can match.'" Then Steve says, "There was no Roman Catholic Church back then. The first person to be called a pope was Heraclas of Alexandria, 236-249 AD. The Copts trace their popes from him, not Roman Catholics. The first Roman bishop to be called a pope was Siricius, 384-399 AD, after Nicea. So the Copts have prior claim to a pope, not Roman Catholics. A Roman Catholic today cannot consider the Copts as non-Christians since the Roman Catholic Church in more recent times has restored communion with the Coptic Church. Furthermore, the Greek Orthodox Church which Orthodox people would argue goes back farther than the Roman Catholic Church, never needed a pope. The 325 AD Council of Nicea established four central metropolitan churches, not one.

"So if you accept the tradition of the Church Councils, then by Church tradition Rome is not the center of the Church. The Orthodox Church did not break away from the Roman Catholic Church, both churches excommunicated each other. So if you're a Roman Catholic who wants to follow the truth, you must stop saying things like, 'Yet only the Catholic Church and its 2,000 year history can match,' because it is a provable historical lie as any Greek Orthodox or Copt will strenuously tell you. As Protestants, we want to go back to the Bible, not man-made organizations with their brutal massacres, papal assassinations, anti-popes, forced disposition of popes, a pope tried for heresy after his death, torture and Inquisitions, burning their own saint at the stake, etc." Steve mentioned that earlier when he talked about Joan of Arc.

"But that is not my main point here. My main point is that if a Roman Catholic brings up 'yet only the Catholic Church and its 2,000 year history can match,' once they have been shown that it is provably false, they have to now stop saying that or else they have disqualified themselves as someone who cares about the truth."

I thought, Steve, that was just a great comment you made on this whole matter and since you're here on the show with me, do you have anything to add to that or anything else you'd like to just tack onto that?

Steve. Ah, no. That pretty much covered it. If you value truth above everything, you know, you can't be making false statements like, you know, "My group was the only one that went back," or something, and you have to also have honesty and say where your group may have done good things and your group may have done some bad things too. And certainly with Protestants, you know, unfortunately I would have to say, you know, Protestants have done some bad things also, but we base it on the Bible, not just on tradition because if we based on tradition whether it be Roman Catholic tradition, Orthodox tradition, or even Protestant tradition, then we're off-base. We need to base upon God and the Bible.

Larry. Amen. Amen. And as people can see here, for more on the subject of early church history as it pertains to Roman Catholicism, see Steve Morrison's 18 part church history video series on YouTube. Some of the titles from that series are: Early Christian church history #3, early Christians quoted Scripture without a Romanist or KJV Bible. Also, early church history #11, the Bible is historically reliable but not Roman Catholic traditions. The links are there. Early Christian church history #14, pre-Nicene 325 AD church was not a Roman Catholic system. We also have early Christian church history #15, there was no pope or cardinals, did have sex and money rules, and the link is there. Earthly Christian church history #16, government rulers, Roman Catholicism veils true Gospel. Then of course, particularly see Steve's website [www.historycart.com](http://www.historycart.com). Other videos we've done on early Christian church history and Roman Catholicism are earthly Christian church history proves Roman Catholicism false, historical split between Roman Catholicism and the Christ of the Scripture. Man's word or God's word? The original early Christian church was not a Roman Catholic system of salvation. And of course, as you see further on the page there, we already mentioned the list of murdered popes and so forth on those videos. But we've got 165 videos so there is plenty of documentation.

Steve. According to Pope Francis, they've said even some atheists and people of other religions can go to heaven also which kind of rankles a lot of more traditional Catholics that their pope, their current pope has done a complete about-face from what historically Roman Catholicism has taught.

Larry. You know where he's getting that from, he's getting it, Francis is getting that from Vatican II and the lumen gentium. In fact, we've got quite a few videos on that as well. In fact, Rob Zins, who is one of our frequent guests on our channel, he's got a degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, but anyway he is also a former Roman Catholic. But he had a debate with an official representative of the Diocese of Austin here in Austin, Texas. The Roman Catholic community here in Austin, Texas was getting upset with us on our cable access TV shows and so they sent a Msgr. Ed. Jordan to debate against Rob Zins and it was amazing to hear that debate. In fact, anyone that wants to see that can see that debate between Msgr. Ed Jordan, the official representative of the Diocese of Austin and Rob Zins, and we called that "The Anything Goes Faith," because the monsignor said you can be a crocodile worshiper on the Amazon River and you'll be okay because it's not just atheists and everything, it's almost anybody with any kind of sincere belief in anything religious and you're going to be okay and the Bible is not important.

But anyway, we find that in lumen gentium, the Vatican II documents which came out and was finished in 1965, it basically says the Muslims worship the same god as Christians, you know, you've got the atheists because of their sincerity can be okay by God. This is where Francis is getting this stuff, he's getting it right from Vatican II, and like I said, we've got several, we've got quite a few videos on that subject already.

But anyway, go ahead.

Steve. 2 Timothy 3:1-5, it all warns there will be those who hold to the form of godliness but deny its power, and Paul gives us a command and the command is, "Have nothing to do with them." So if there are people, whether Roman Catholic, Protestant or whatever, that deny not just interpretations but what the Bible actually says clearly, then we are to have nothing to do with them if we're going to obey God and obey what Paul said.

Moving on. So in CORNMEAL we talked about the Copts, the Orthodox, the Roman Catholics, and now we're going to get to the group that I predict that most of our viewers know the least about, if anything at all, and this mysterious group are called the Nestorians. Okay, Nestorius was the patriarch of Constantinople and he was a Nicene, Trinitarian Christian but he was excommunicated at the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD for two things: one, he denied saying that Mary was the mother of God, also translated bearer of God; and second, he said that Jesus had two separate wills, a human will and a divine will.

Now as Protestants, we think Mary, mother of God or Mary, mother of Jesus, or Mary, mother of Christ, certainly Mary, mother of God the Son, but Mary, mother of God, sounds like is Mary mother of the Father? Is mother of the Holy Spirit? You know, that's not right at all. Well, actually those who hold to Mary, mother of God, which includes Orthodox and Roman Catholics, they don't believe that Mary is the mother of the Father or the Holy Spirit either, but they want to use that unfortunate language to emphasize that Jesus was just one and one in will. So there weren't two Jesuses inside one body, okay, and Nestorius may not have actually believed in two Jesuses in one body but some of his stuff kind of comes uncomfortably close to that.

So Nestorius was definitely off but after he was kicked out, he wrote a work called "The Bazaar of Heracleides" and in that work we see Nestorius not in what the Council said about him but we see what Nestorius said in his own words, and he's not as extreme as the Council made him out to be. They made him out to be this devilish monster and everything. Nestorius, in my opinion and the opinion of Evangelicals as well as Roman Catholics and Orthodox, he was still wrong, though. Okay?

Nestorians, as they were kicked out, they kind of took the mission of spreading the Gospel to the world more seriously than, let's say, the Roman Catholic Church, especially in the East. So they spread throughout the Persian Empire and the Persians sometimes persecuted them but sometimes were tolerant of them because they were different than the Roman Catholics. They went to India. They went throughout Central Asia and they went through even to Mainland China. They were persecuted in many places. They did make a monument in Western China, though, around I think 931 or so AD, and they were actually prominent in the Chinese court. But they were persecuted by Mongols and they were persecuted by Muslims, and there's this one Muslim who had his own horde named Tamerlane and he just killed lots and lots of all kinds of people, I mean, including like a mound of skulls in Iran, and then afterwards he built a white mosque.

Larry. Tamerlane was one of the worst killers back then. He just practically wiped out the Zoroastrians in those countries he was spreading his armies through. In fact, we've got a

video that deals specifically with Tamerlane. It's our 1,400 years of Islamic history video and we have a whole section on him, but he was particularly brutal, as you're saying.

Here's a picture of one of the two brothers suspected of bombing the Boston Marathon who was named Tamerlan Tsarnaev. That means he was named after the 14<sup>th</sup> century Turkic ruler Tamerlane, also spelled Tamburlaine, but more commonly Timur or Timur, who called himself "the sword of Islam." Tamerlane, Timur, says Wikipedia, was known for his butchery and his systematic use of terror. His empire stretched thousands of miles encompassing parts among other countries: Turkey, India, Iran, Afghanistan, and also Kurdistan where the Boston suspects were born.

Tamerlane was a devout muslim who referred to himself as the sword of Islam, converting nearly all the Borjigin leaders to Islam during his lifetime. His armies were exclusively multi-ethnic. During his lifetime, Timur would emerge as the most powerful ruler in the Muslim world after defeating the Mamluks of Egypt and Syria, the emerging Ottoman Empire and the declining Sultanate of Delhi. Timur also decisively defeated the Christian Knights Hospitaller at Smyrna.

Timur's armies were feared throughout Asia, Africa, and Europe, sizable parts of which were laid to ruin by his campaigns. Scholars estimate that his military campaigns caused the deaths 17 million people, amount to about 5% of the world population.

Taking advantage of his Turko-Mongolia heritage, Timur frequently used either the Islamic religion or the law and traditions of the Mongol Empire to achieve his military goals or domestic political aims. This shows that Islam is not only religious but is also political.

He not only consolidated his rule at home by the subjugation of his foes, but sought extension of territory by encroachments upon the lands of foreign potentates. His conquests to the West and Northwest led him to the lands near the Caspian Sea and to the banks of the Ural and Volga.

His incursion into Persia was notable in part for what Tamerlane ordered his troops to do after the brief siege of the city of Isfahan. When Isfahan surrendered to Timur in 1387, he treated it with relative mercy as he normally did with cities that surrendered. However, after the city revolted against Timur's taxes by killing the tax collectors and some of Timur's soldiers, Timur ordered the massacre of the city's citizens with the death toll reckoned at between 100,000 and 200,000. An eye-witness counted more than 28 towers constructed of about 1,500 heads each. This has been described as a systematic use of terror against towns, an integral element of Tamerlane's strategic element which he viewed as preventing bloodshed by discouraging resistance.

He massacred 100,000 captives at Delhi, and at least 20,000 more at Baghdad. The Baghdad death toll came after Timur ordered that every soldier should return with at least two severed human heads to show him. Many warriors were so scared they killed

prisoners captured earlier in the campaign just to ensure they had heads to present to Timur.

In all, the conquests of Timur are claimed to have caused the deaths of up to 17 million people, an assertion impossible to verify. Timur's campaign sometimes caused large and permanent demographic changes. Northern Iraq remained predominantly Assyrian Christian until attacked, looted, plundered and destroyed by Timur leaving its population decimated by a systematic mass slaughter. Timur's devotion to Islam, especially in his waning years, was never in question, but in his earlier adulthood he seems to have been more of a religious opportunist who just loved to subjugate and plunder.

Notes on reviewer of Justin Marozzi's biography "Tamerlane: Sword of Islam, Conqueror of the World": "Timur rationalised his conquests by appeal to Islam, but he rates as one of the greatest butchers of Muslims of all time. His forces were hired and kept loyal with generous shares of the spoils of conquest, and the cynical deal was, 'No jewels, no jihad.' If a city were rich enough to merit plundering, it would qualify as a city of bad Muslims to be blessed with Timur's corrections and a pretext found. If it happened to be filled with Crusaders or Hindus, all the better. The Ottomans themselves, fresh from annihilating the flower of Christian knighthood at Nicopolis, were swept aside almost without effort. Clearly, Timur's blessings to his religion were equivocal. Campaigns against Delhi and Christian enclaves in Asia Minor allowed a slightly more convincing pretext of religious war, and in his later years he directed his energies more consistently against non-Muslims as he felt immortality approach, but his campaigning character seems to have been defined by the lust for conquest."

Go ahead.

Steve. He probably killed more Muslims than just about anybody else and he was Muslim.

Larry. That's correct. In fact, Muslims end up killing their own because Mohammad made that statement that if you think somebody's a Muslim or is a hypocrite that also claims to be a Muslim, then you can kill him. So obviously, the Shiites kill the Sunnis and Sunnis kill the Shiites, whoever they think is a hypocrite and they're just following Mohammad's command.

Steve. Long and short of it, the Nestorians lived in kind of a dangerous part of the world. Most of them died out by 1200-1400 AD and there are only about 800,000 left today.

A third thing that's bad about Nestorians is they really admire Theodore of Mopsuestia, and he was a Pelagian, and later on he seemed to kind of maybe condemn Pelagianism toward the end of his life but Pelagius, he obviously wrote against Pelagius, Pelagius said that Adam and Eve didn't do anything that relates to us except set a bad example. So they said that man is basically one who is born morally neutral and the Nestorians in one of their conferences, they especially honored Theodore of Mopsuestia, who was a very well-known Pelagian.

Nestorians first came to China about 781 AD and spread Christianity or their version there, and later on they were kind of kicked out of China by the Emperor who didn't like foreign religions, and so many of them went North. Now North of China is the Mongols and they actually converted a tribe of Mongols, one of the tribes, but after they did, that tribe kind of got wiped out by the other tribes of Mongols.

So it went from Eastern Mongolia through China all the way to Syria and they were responsible for the silk trade, for the Silk Road of trade because how do you have all these nomadic maybe even Barbarians in Central Asia, how in the world can you run valuable silk and other goods through there without getting pillaged and have any kind of a trade road between it? Well, you had to have the different groups be able to trust each other and do business with each other and if they were all Nestorians, then they could trust each other, different tribes, and they have even found Turkic soldiers from way back then that had crosses tattooed on their foreheads. Unfortunately, they didn't stay that way. In Western China, the Uyghurs and others, they converted from Nestroianism to Manichaeism, which Augustine was before he became a Christian, and then later on they converted to Islam.

So things are all different today but it's kind of interesting, the prominent historical, I guess, text that they had, and the Nestorian Bible, it's like ours, same books of the New Testament and everything, they do have Psalms, you know, we have 150 Psalms in our Bible whether you're Roman Catholic, Orthodox, or Protestant, or Jewish, 150 Psalms, well, the Nestorians have Psalms 151-155 which were not at all by David and added extra. So there is that there. So they're kind of, you know, there aren't so many today. If there were a Nestorian Church around, could I become a member of it? No, the fact of Christ having these two wills, but they did, you know, do some good things and they were predominantly peaceful. So that's kind of one of the more interesting, amazing, mysterious groups of Christians.

Larry. Or so-called Christians.

Steve. Right.

Larry. Just because you have the name "Christian" doesn't necessarily mean they're actual, authentic, biblical Christians as defined by Scripture and that's the difference of what we're basically doing here in this show, is just kind of drawing that distinction as we go.

But anyway, go ahead.

Steve. So the next group isn't really a single group but a hodge-podge of groups, multi-grain groups, in that the key characteristic of these is not that they agree with each other, they don't, but the one thing they have in common is rather than just having one seed, these groups generally claim the power of the Bible plus. The Bible plus the modern prophet or the Bible plus a leader, or some other Scripture. So the Bible plus Joseph

Smith for Mormons, the Watchtower for Jehovah's Witnesses, Ellen G. White for Seventh Day Adventists, at least some of the Adventists, Mary Baker Eddy for Christian Science, Reverend Moon for Moon's Unificationists, or others. So it's kind of like, well, yeah, they want to say the Bible is true and they want to say they believe it but it's really not good enough for them. As Rev. Moon said, the Bible in his view, the Bible was fine for 2,000 years ago but we need a higher standard today, and so that's why he wrote his book and wants people to join his group and pay him money.

Larry. That was the "Divine Principle" that he wrote.

Steve. Right. And we have no shortage of books written by guys saying that this is the truth in modern times, and so I just grouped these all together as multi-grain groups.

The three largest groups which are probably together make up the majority of all the numbers are the Seventh Day Adventists and Seventh Day Adventists emphasize that Ellen G. White's words are just as important as the Bible and they say that there is a mark of the beast and the mark of the beast is worshipping on Sunday, in Revelation, ungodly in that way.

Larry. Well, it's very cultic. It's very cultic because I can tell you, once again, our YouTube channel has a lot of videos on Seventh Day Adventism. We have a whole playlist on Seventh Day Adventism. Just a couple of years ago from the time of this video, they had their world conference in San Antonio, Texas so, you know, San Antonio is not that far from here in Austin, Texas, and so my videoman and I, we couldn't resist the opportunity to go to this kind of like world conference over there in San Antonio so we went. We've got the video up on YouTube right now that's over two hours long and we've got video footage of their exposition, of all their delegates meeting and it was by the providence of the Lord that we actually went in when the delegates were voting on whether they should accept Ellen G. White as this prophetess-type lady and we just happened to be there at that moment when they were voting on whether they should keep her in this elevated prophetess-type status and they voted, yes, yes, she's got this prophetess-type status. We've got that on video and that video is about to go over 300,000 views, I think, last time I looked. So they are holding onto her because, really, that's the personality of the Seventh Day Adventists, they are homed in on this keeping Old Testament laws and dietary laws and keeping the Sabbath and all this works righteousness to attain their salvation because, after all, they pervert the book of Daniel where they have this Investigative Judgment where you won't know for sure if you're saved until you go there and Jesus reviews the kind of good works you did in your life and then he makes a decision whether you can get in or either your soul is annihilated into oblivion because they don't really believe in an everlasting burning hell. But anyway, I could go into all this but the viewers at home if they want more on Seventh Day Adventism, just go to our playlist. We've got about 30-something videos on those guys.

But anyway, go ahead.

Steve. Alright, so besides Seventh Day Adventists, the two largest groups after them are Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. Now the thing that is kind of disappointing to me is that a non-christian who had run into a Seventh Day Adventist or Mormon or Jehovah's Witness and they could say, "Oh, they have the Bible. They open the Bible, therefore, they must be Evangelical Christians." And they are not at all. It's like impostors and so Satan is effective of having impostors. You say, yeah, Seventh Day Adventists, we don't know any better. It looks like that they care a lot about the Bible but then you find out that yeah, they do but they care about Ellen G. White just about as much. Mormons, they quote the Bible but then you see their views of Joseph Smith and their subsequent prophets are even greater than the Bible. So these guys, yeah, they can look like Evangelicals and sound like Evangelicals but they're not Evangelicals.

Larry. But when you're dealing with Mormons, it's particularly interesting because you can ask a Mormon, "Do you believe in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?" And those young Mormon missionaries will look you right in the eye and they say, "Oh, yes, sir. We believe in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit," but the problem is semantics, what do they mean when they say Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Of course, the Father is Elohim, according to Brigham Young, he was Adam.

Steve. And then had thousands of spirit wives.

Larry. That's right. That's right. That's called the doctrine of covenants of Brigham Young. Then Jesus is the spirit brother of the devil and, of course, the Holy Spirit is this other god because they believe there's more gods as there are grains of sand on a million earths, and that they'll become god of their own planet at some point if they're good Mormons. Now, the women don't get to do that, though, they can only be goddess wives of the Mormon men who get to be gods of their own planets, but then the wives can be like a goddess of the men, but the women really don't get to have their own planet, they have to be subservient to their husbands in that kind of a case.

So it's exactly like you say, they use all the terms, Bible terms but they reconfigure the meanings of the Gospel and everything else into something else. So, once again, is a plug for viewers at home, we have a whole playlist on Mormonism on our YouTube channel so I think there's like 20-something videos about them. In fact, we have, I think I've got two videos called "Mormons in my living room" where I'm actually debating Mormon missionaries and they're telling, just like I mentioned, Jesus is the spirit brother of the devil, they're actually saying that, coming right out of the mouths of the Mormon missionaries themselves. Because I remember asking them, "Well, should we pray to Jesus? Should we worship him as God?" And they're going like, "Ah, I don't know. Really you should be worshiping the Father." You know, I let them speak for themselves in the videos.

But it goes back to what you're saying essentially, they use the words but it's counterfeit. It's not true biblical Christianity. It's like used car salesman's idea of what the Bible should say if you're trying to sell something and they're trying to sell Mormonism, which

is just like a lemon if you're talking about a car. I mean, it's not going to do you any good. It's not going to get you down the road very far either.

Anyway, go ahead, brother.

Steve. Okay, well the next group we'll talk about is Evangelicals and so we would know about that, however, we have to recognize that Evangelicals among themselves do differ on some minor things and secondary things too, and then also just kind of ask the question how would Evangelicals be looked at by some of these other groups too. So Evangelicals, one key factor of them versus the other views is that they value God's word over tradition.

Now the Roman Catholic Church, sometimes they talk about the three-legged stool which could mean the popes, the councils and the Bible, or they might talk about tradition and the popes and the Bible. In the Eastern Orthodox Church, it has been said that someone who has achieved theosis or god, that they actually wouldn't need the Bible because their words would be just as good as the Bible but they wouldn't necessarily contradict the Bible. So the Orthodox Church, they do Bible reading and all that but they don't hold it necessarily as any higher than some of the words of the other people that they value as saints.

But Evangelicals value God's word over tradition. In fact, the pastor of the church that I went to said that he expected people in his congregation to compare his word with what the Bible said, and if and when they found that he said something that was not against the Bible, the pastor would expect them to follow what the Bible said and to not follow him. So the pastor, himself, said, "Follow the Bible more than me if you find any difference."

There are roughly about 640 million Evangelicals and that includes about 18 million or so we estimate in Mainland China. This also includes conservative Protestants, charismatics, Bible churches, and also an estimated 40 million conservative Anglicans. Speaking of Anglicans, in about 1534 AD, Henry VIII started the Anglican Church of England. The pope refused to annul his marriage and so he broke off and started his own and that's where the Anglican Church came from. Then during the American Revolution, the Anglicans in America, many of them broke off and became the Episcopalian Church which today is very liberal. Among Evangelicals, Lutherans and Calvinists, they persecuted Anabaptists, they persecuted each other, and also Roman Catholics. So there was a lot of bad stuff going around in that time period.

But anyway, for different Evangelical groups there are like three distinctives that they all kind of agree upon: trusting God's word, the Bible, as the highest authority in your life is number one. Number two: believing and seriously following the New Testament of God as the human writers intended it to be. And number three: salvation by God's grace alone, not works, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Now if those kind of unite Evangelicals, there are three mainly kind of subgroups of Evangelicals. One group some people call them fundamentalists and many of them have strict rules on no drinking, no dancing, blue laws, things like that. They would probably be a minority. Another group would be

maybe regular Evangelicals, as I call them, various denominations. They have differing views on things like the age of the earth and some examples of maybe people like James Dobson and Norm Geisler. Then you have another group, it's not really separate from the second but it's a little distinct, neo-Evangelicals, and that would be people like C. S. Lewis and Rick Warren and some of them believe the Bible is infallible but not inerrant, while the other two would say that the Bible is inerrant. Inerrant means without any error, and infallible just means without error in faith or practice. So that's one way of looking at Evangelicals.

Larry. Before you move on to the next group, I wanted to throw in my two cent's worth about Evangelicals simply because I've kind of made a big deal about it over the years. We've got a video that's on YouTube called "87% of Evangelicals do not know what the Gospel is or what justification is." And it's based on Pew Research and Barna polls and all these types of things. Like you're getting 50% of them thinking that your good works get you to heaven and these people are claiming to be Evangelicals. So basically all I wanted to say at this point is that what you outlined is right, I have no problem with that, the problem is a lot of these people that claim to be Evangelicals don't even know what the Gospel is and they don't know what justification is. I like what James White said about it, he's one of my favorite apologists on his "Dividing Line" show, he basically just says they're called Evangelicals but I don't really know what to call them anymore. It's because they're so all over the board.

So there's a problem there in a distinction of what is an Evangelical and what does he actually believe and when you look at the results of polls among Evangelicals, a lot of them don't even believe that devil exists; they think their works are going to save them; they have all these convoluted ideas that totally disagree with what the Scripture teaches. But that's a subject for another time but I would encourage people to check out that video we've got based on the research, "87% of Evangelicals don't know what the Gospel is and they don't know what justification is." It's interesting, the Southern Baptist Convention says of all their congregations in the research they've done of the Southern Baptists which would be considered Evangelicals, they say that only 17% of their congregations give any money at all to the Southern Baptist Convention, and they're not counting someone throwing a dollar in the collection plate, but they're saying that 83% of the people in the Southern Baptist Convention don't give a dime for the work of Christ which tells you something about their spiritual condition.

For the viewers at home, here's a statement about C. S. Lewis that we placed in the comments section under a lot of our videos on YouTube and you can freeze-frame it if you'd like to see a little bit more about this. We'll place the different pages of it here on the screen and as I said, you can freeze-frame each page, read the information, and go on from there.

Recording:

Speaker. On page 35 of "The Grand Miracle and Other Selected Essays," Lewis said, quote, "The time is always ripe for reunion. Divisions between Christians are a sin and a scandal and Christians ought at all times to be making contributions toward reunion."

Lewis bent over backwards to find common ground with all denominations excluding from his books any doctrine that might be offensive to anyone, and this to the point that even Mormons enjoy reading his writings.

In his book "Mere Christianity," Lewis's stated purpose is to provide a non-controversial theology. Of all things, I could never dream of a non-controversial theology. What doctrine in God's word has not been the battleground for great controversy through the ages? His theology is a generic kind of Christianity that suits everybody who can in any way relate to God.

In the Forward to "Mere Christianity," Lewis says that he submitted this book to four clergymen, an Anglican, a Methodist, a Roman Catholic and a Presbyterian for criticism before its publication. He wanted to make sure he didn't offend anybody.

In his books, Lewis also, and this is probably where our children come in mostly today, he sought to blend paganism with Christianity. He had a certain respect and awe for pagan religions. In his book, "C. S. Lewis: A Biography," Roger L. Green quotes Lewis on page 276 in referring to Lewis's travels in the Mediterranean. Quote, "At Daphne, it was hard not to pray to Apollo the healer, but somehow one didn't feel it would have been wrong. It would have only been addressing Christ subspecies Apollonus." "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," and all of his books promote the idea that Christianity and paganism can be blended together.

"The Chronicles of Narnia" are an attempt to blend Christianity and paganism using thinly veiled pagan gods and goddesses like Bacchus as characters. He gives them other names but it's thinly veiled reference to these pagan gods. In "Prince Caspian" on page 192, Aslan, who is supposed to represent Christ, leads in a Bacchanalian orgy. His "Chronicles" actually serve as an introduction of children to the philosophies of the occult/pagan world.

How can this be when paganism and Christianity are so diametrically opposed? Paul says in 2 Corinthians 6:14 and 17 that God requires separation of his people from paganism. Listen to 2 Corinthians 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" Then verse 17, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you."

In summary then, what C. S. Lewis believed though he professed to be a Christian, was contrary to biblical Christianity.

The last question with which I want to deal in the message is why preach a sermon on C. S. Lewis? I want to give you about five reasons.

First of all, because of Lewis's widespread popularity and influence in today's Christianity. Lewis is popular, as I stated, among Catholics, Pentecostals, occultists, Baptists, conservatives, Evangelicals and all other stripes of Christians today. He is also

very popular in homeschooling circles and that's one reason I wanted to preach this message because as far as I know, all of our children are homeschooled. Why is he so popular? Well, there are several reasons. For one, because he has great powers of communication. Brother, he knows how to get an idea across. For another, he could illustrate everything clearly. A third reason is because his books are so easy to read. Fourth, he is popular because of the spiritual weakness and vulnerability of modern Christians, and I'll have more to say about that in a moment. Fifth, he is popular because most of today's Christians want the world's approval and C. S. Lewis keeps Christians from being called fools for Christ's sake. The mention of his name gives them acceptance with the world by giving them the endorsement of an intellectual who is respected by the world.

Why preach on C. S. Lewis? Second, because Christians are required to investigate and test all religious teaching before accepting it. Turn to 1 John 4:1. Christians are required to investigate and test all religious teaching before they accept it. 1 John 4:1 says to Christians, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." We must measure every book and every teacher by the yardstick of God's holy word.

Look at Isaiah 8:20. I don't know how many times I've come back to this verse in thinking about different people and their new theologies or their distinct theologies. Isaiah 8:20, "To the law and to the testimony," that is, to the Old Testament Scriptures, to the Scriptures, "if they speak not according to this word," the Scriptures, "it is because there is no light in them."

Now turn to Galatians 1:9. We must measure every book and every teacher by the word of God. Galatians 1:9, "As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Next turn to 2 Timothy 4:3-4. This certainly describes the age in which we live when so many professing Christians have fallen for this man and others like him. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." Isn't that a significant word? Fables means myths.

I ask you today, what I'm asking you today is this: look at God's word and look at this man's life and teachings and then decide how to think of C. S. Lewis and his works.

Why preach a sermon on C. S. Lewis? Thirdly, because of the shallowness and lack of spiritual discernment among professing Christians today. Modern Christians are alarmingly ignorant of God's word and spiritual things. Most Christians don't seem to have the spiritual discernment to realize who or what C. S. Lewis was and thus they promote his works as being great Christian books. You know, after reading these things, I wonder if these people have really read what C. S. Lewis said. Did you know that many

churches today have even used "The Chronicles of Narnia" for their Sunday school curriculum?

Why preach a sermon on C. S. Lewis? Fourthly, because God's word commands his preachers to identify and warn against false prophets and false teachers. Look at verse 17 of our text in Romans 16. It says we are to "ark them, that's false teachers, and avoid them. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

According to what we've seen in this message, C. S. Lewis is not a teacher of the truth and young Christians should, therefore, not be directed to his books. We must be careful to direct young Christians to faithful, sound, Christian books whether their authors are famous or obscure.

Why preach on C. S. Lewis? Finally, because God's curse is on those who preach other Gospels. Turn to Galatians 1:6-8. I want to close by reading this passage in Galatians 1:6-8. The Apostle Paul is speaking to people in the churches of Galatia and he says, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Let us pray.

Larry. But anyway, go ahead, proceed with your presentation.

Steve. Alright, well, on problem, though, I guess with the term Evangelical is it's become too popular.

Larry. Exactly.

Steve. People will say they're Evangelicals and they don't really have any much clue about what it means.

Larry. You're totally right.

Steve. So moving on to another group which by definition doesn't exist today, let's look at the Ante-Nicene Christians, a-n-t-e, so Christians before Nicea. What were they like? Well, sometimes people call them proto-orthodox and this would include the main Orthodox Church, and there are also two other "denominations," Montanists and Novatianists, and the reason that we don't call them Orthodox is because, yes, Orthodox Christians look at them and Evangelicals and Roman Catholics look at them and say they are us, that's what they say, but Nestorians and Copts also look at the Ante-Nicene Christians and say they are us too, and also even the Arians who in 325 AD would say they believed the Trinity but they don't really believe that Jesus was God in the same sense, they would look at the Ante-Nicene Christians. So proto-orthodox is maybe a little bit more precise term than Orthodox because, you know, there's other stuff like

Nestorianism and the Monophysitism. Frankly, the Ante-Nicene Christians generally think about those things and come up with that.

But anyway, Ante-Nicene Christians have aspects of some groups more than others, we'll get into that later. We have about around, oh let's say, 4,200 or so pages of teaching from 85 pre-Nicene writers. We actually have a whole lot of what they taught and rather than trying to say that everything that they believed in this presentation, let's do some math. You can go to the webpage [www.historycart.com/whatearlychristianstaught.doc](http://www.historycart.com/whatearlychristianstaught.doc) or .html and you will see a list of things that four or more pre-Nicene writers taught and none deny and that list has 1,097 items so far and it's probably going to go up a little bit as I find more, and of these things, only five would be considered errors by Christians today and only 31 or so would be disputed by various churches. So that's a pretty small number. If you want to know what the errors were, I'll leave you in suspense; I'll let you look.

I will tell you one, though. They heard of this concept called atoms, that things were made up of little indivisible balls, and they thought, "Oh, that's ridiculous." Okay, so that's one of the five. So when they spoke in science and other stuff not in the Bible, they didn't necessarily do too good but when it spoke in the Bible, they actually did quite good.

Here's the thing: if you were to put of all the groups we're talking about in CORNMEAL or at least if you were to put a Copt, an average Orthodox, an average Roman Catholic, an average Nestorian, an average Evangelical, and an Ante-Nicene person all in the same room together, the Ante-Nicene Christian would probably be closer to each of the other groups than they are to each other. However, it didn't last forever. After 325 AD, the Church changed greatly because it became as powerful as the official religion of Rome. For example, and I say this with sadness, around 346 or 348 AD there was one writer, an ex-astrologer named Formicus Maternus, and he wrote, he was the first person in history, the first Christian in history to write that Christians should persecute others.

So Christians didn't persecute others before this time but when they got the power, frankly things started going downhill. Someone once said that Christianity has less to fear from her avowed enemies than from her supposed friends and when Constantine made Christianity the official in the empire and as the soldiers got baptized whether they really believed or not and he closed a lot of pagan temples and everything and the people all started coming to churches, some would say the church hasn't fully recovered since that.

So anyway, we'll get into more about what they believe but if you want to know all the nitty-gritty details, go to that webpage. There is also an equivalent webpage on biblequery and you can see what they believe and the documentation of who said what.

So the last group in CORNMEAL is L and that's the "Liberal Christians," in quotes because these guys, some of them don't even believe in God. They even have a concept in one small group called Christian Atheism. Okay, so Liberal here means theological Liberal, not politically Liberal. I mean, they can go hand-in-hand but they actually can be different.

So Liberals would generally say only follow the parts of the Bible that you agree with and don't follow the parts that you don't like. So it's almost like the 10 Commandments have become the 10 Suggestions, and some of them reject the book of Revelation. Alright now, this is where it gets hard to explain because Liberals believe all different things. Some Liberals deny that Jesus died for our sins. Some deny that Jesus physically rose from the dead. But there are different degrees and some Liberals agree that Jesus died for our sins and some agree that Jesus physically rose from the dead. So different Liberals believe different things. Some deny the virgin birth. Some Liberals deny all miracles. Some Liberals will say homosexuality is a sin, and some do not. Most Liberals deny that Jesus is the only way.

Of about 293 million, there are about 23 million in the Three-self Patriotic Movement Church in Mainland China, and about 45 million Liberal Episcopalians or Anglicans are also included here. So there are Anglicans who are conservatives, Evangelical, and there are Anglicans who are Liberal also.

Larry. For viewers at home, I'd like to recommend that you see our two-part series on YouTube called "Wolves in Sheep's Clothing: Liberal Christianity #1," and this particular screenshot you're seeing here is from our denominational false prophets, Acts 20:28-31 episode. Of course, there's a part 2 to that talking about Liberal Christianity with Steve Morrison who is pictured here and myself, Larry Wessels.

The following is a little clip from that series dealing with Liberal Christianity:

Steve Morrison. A Christian conservative is generally thought of as somebody who believes the Bible is the inerrant word of God, without error at all in the original manuscripts, and is a person who basically believes that the way that the writers intended for the writing to be taken and the way that we believe God intended for it to be taken, that's the way you should take the Bible. In contrast to that, a Christian liberal, they may believe the Bible is the word of God to various degrees and different liberals have kind of different definitions and they have different ways of interpreting the Bible that, really, you would not ever want to, let's say, interpret a professor's remarks in a classroom that way or interpret most things that way, but they tend to want to take things more symbolically or spiritually.

In talking about liberals, Christian liberals, why don't we step back and let's look at the overall context of world religions and just kind of see how things are. If you look at all the people in the world, roughly about 1/3 of them or 37% are Christians, at least in name, and of that about half of them are Roman Catholics and about half of that number are Protestants, and about half of that number are Eastern Orthodox or other, and "other" includes a lot of new denominations or new groups in Africa and includes the house churches in China and others, and only about 2% are the cults. Now of the others, it's about 1/5 of the world is Muslim and about 1/5 of the world is atheist and agnostic, but we're going to focus mainly on the Christians part.

Now in North America, of all the Christians in the world, about 13% live in North America which is a far smaller percentage than a long time ago, and that's about 249-250 million in North America. Now in North America and including Canada and the United States, about half are Protestant and about a quarter are Catholic. Today there is liberalism within Catholicism and within Eastern Orthodox but we're really going to focus on Protestant liberalism today, so just kind of narrow the topic a little bit.

Now among Protestants, you have conservatives and you have liberals and in the middle you kind of have moderates. Now these words are sort of amorphous and when somebody may be called a moderate, somebody else might call them a liberal, and somebody else might call them a conservative. So there is some ambiguity on these terms.

You have what's called the neo-orthodox and then you have the liberals and this is confusing in that the liberals refers to the whole group and liberals also refers to this one segment within the liberal group, so we might call them, I guess the liberal liberals. And way over on the right you have the "death of God" which is kind of an unusual, very small group that we'll explain in a second.

The neo-orthodox generally believe most of the Christian doctrines that the conservatives believe but they do not believe that the Bible was inerrant or necessarily even infallible in its original manuscripts and they think that the key point is the words of God behind the Bible and that the Bible can become the word of God but that the Bible is not the word of God.

The liberals or the liberal liberals rather, they deny many of the historic Christian doctrines. Many of them deny the virgin birth. They deny the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ. They deny the substitutionary atonement of Christ. They deny the importance of the Bible also.

And the far extreme group on the right is also called Christian atheism. For example, there was an Anglican bishop in England who was kicked out of the Anglican Church because he said he did not believe in God and many other bishops wrote protesting the action that he got kicked out. So there are some people who call themselves Christians who don't believe in God. Now this is a very small segment of the liberals but just to show you kind of the wide range of people who are within this group called liberal Christianity.

Larry. Steve, thanks for being with us. I want to tell the folks out there, join us again next time for another episode in Christian Answers Presents and just remember this from the words of Jesus, John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father except by me." So it's by Jesus. How do you find out about Jesus? Through the word of God that Steve and I have been saying all along. Stick to the word of God, get to know God as presented in the Scripture and through the power of his Holy Spirit you'll be able to believe, learn and live the life of Christ as you're taught by the word of God. Alright with that, we'll see you next time. God bless you all.

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