

A HISTORICAL, DOCTRINAL, AND PRACTICAL COMPARISON OF DENOMINATIONS

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Denomination	Founder and Date	Salvation	Church Membership	Fiscal Permanence of the Saints	Form of Baptism	Subjects of Baptism	Design of Baptism	Design of Lord's Supper	Qualifications for Participating in the Lord's Supper	Worship of the Church	Government of the Church	Officers of the Church	Authority
BAPTIST	Jesus Christ 50-58 A.D. Mark 8:13-19	By Grace through Faith. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit and Sanctification of the Redeemed and Regenerated.	Only those who profess faith and are immersed.	Eternal security of all who are genuinely saved.	Immersion only	Professed believers only	Symbol of the believer's participation in the Gospel.	Symbol of the death of Christ for the believer's sins.	Restricted to immersed believers walking soberly in a New Testament Church Fellowship.	Voluntary—Free Non-Liturgical. Simplicity of the New Testament.	Congregational—Democratic. Autonomy of the local Church.	Pastor Deacons	Bible Only. New Testament Only. Law of Christianity.
CONGREGATIONAL	Robert Brown 1580 A.D.	By Grace through Faith. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit and Sanctification of the Redeemed and Regenerated.	Only those who profess faith and are sprinkled. Infant Baptism.	Possibility of total apostasy.	Sprinkling	Infants, professed believers	A sign of regeneration and profession	A memorial of the death of Christ for the believer's sins.	All who have been Baptized. "Open Communion."	Voluntary—Free Non-Liturgical. Simplicity of the New Testament.	Congregational—Democratic. Autonomy of the local Church.	Pastor Deacons	Bible Only
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST	Alexander Campbell 1807 A.D.	Belief, Repentance, and Immersion the completing act in Regeneration. Historical Faith in Christ.	Only those who profess faith, repent, and are immersed for the redemption of sins.	Possibility of total apostasy.	Immersion only	Those who have believed and repented	For the remission of sins, necessary to regeneration.	A memorial feast of the death of Christ, observed every Lord's Day.	Open to any and all the Baptized of all Denominations. "Open Communion."	Voluntary—Free Non-Liturgical. Simplicity of the New Testament.	Semi-Presbyterian. Local church is autonomous.	Pastor Elders Deacons	Bible Only
PRESBYTERIAN	John Calvin 1536 A.D.	By Grace through Faith. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit and Sanctification of the Redeemed and Regenerated.	Infant Baptism. All who profess faith and are sprinkled.	Eternal security of all who are genuinely saved.	Sprinkling	Infants, professed believers	A sign, seal or pledge. A means of grace.	A sign of the death of Christ and means of grace. Mystical presence.	All who have been Baptized. "Open Communion."	Voluntary—Free Non-Liturgical. Emphasis part of "Christian Year." Formal.	Presbyterian. Judicial authority in governing bodies.	Pastor Ruling Elders Deacons	Bible Creed Confession
METHODIST	John Wesley 1739 A.D.	Gift to all of sufficient Grace. Final salvation to those who improve and cooperate with sufficient Grace.	Infant Baptism. All who desire to be saved and persevere to lead an upright life. Protestants. Baptism by sprinkling.	Possibility of total apostasy.	Sprinkling	Infants, professed believers	A sign of regeneration and profession.	A sign of the death of Christ and means of grace. Mystical presence.	All who have been Baptized. "Open Communion."	Voluntary—Free Non-Liturgical. Emphasis part of "Christian Year."	Episcopacy. Judicial and legislative powers in governing bodies. Semi-Hierarchical in practice.	Stewards Pastors Superintendents Bishops	Bible Creed Discipline
LUTHERAN	Martin Luther 1517 A.D.	Sacramental Efficacy of Baptism and Lord's Supper. Nourished through means of Grace.	Infant Baptism. Confirmation, profession of Faith and Baptism by sprinkling.	Possibility of total apostasy.	Sprinkling (from consecrated supporters)	Infants, professed believers	Necessary to regeneration.	A channel through which grace is actually conferred. Con-substantiation.	All who have been Baptized and Confirmed. "Open Communion."	Liturgical to some extent. Formal Emphasis much of "Christian Year."	Modified Episcopacy. Judicial and legislative powers in governing bodies.	Pastors, Deacons, Trustees in U. S. A. and Bishops in Europe	Bible Creeds Confession
EPISCOPALIAN	Henry VIII 1534 A.D.	Sacramental Efficacy of Baptism. Nourished through Eucharist. Baptismal Regeneration.	Infant Baptism. Confirmation. Acceptance of Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. Baptism by sprinkling.	Possibility of total apostasy.	Sprinkling (immersion allowed)	Infants, professed believers	Necessary to regeneration.	A channel through which grace is actually conferred. Con-substantiation.	All who have been Baptized and Confirmed. "Open Communion."	Ritualistic. Liturgical. Very formal. Emphasis much of "Christian Year."	Episcopacy. Judicial and legislative powers in governing bodies. Governed by General Canon.	Vestrymen Deacons Priests (Rectors) Bishops Archbishops	Bible Creeds Confession
ROMAN CATHOLIC	Gradual Development from 3rd Century to Gregory the Great 590-604 A.D.	Through Church and Sacraments. Nourished through Holy Eucharist. Baptismal Regeneration.	Infant Baptism. Confirmation. All who partake of the sacraments and accept authority of church.	Possibility of total apostasy.	Sprinkling	Infants, all who profess the Catholic Faith.	To effect regeneration.	Instrument of conveying grace. Transubstantiation.	Baptism, Confirmation, Confession, Penance. Restricted to members of Catholic Church.	Ritualistic. Liturgical. Mass and confession prescribed. Pledge "Christian Year" rightly.	Hierarchy. Incessant religious-political machine. Absolute authority in hands of Pope.	Deacons, Priests, Bishops, Archbishops, Cardinals, The Pope	General Canon Creeds, Councils, Tradition, Canon Law, an "Infallible" Church and Pope.