A Family Tree of Religious Groups

Polytheism
Belief in many gods

Primitive Tribal Religions
Gods seen throughout nature • Animism • Ancestor worship

Hinduism
Thousands of gods • Reincarnation • Karma

Monotheism
Belief in one God

Judaism
Moses • Law (Torah) • Rabbinical commentary (Talmud)

Christianity
Jesus Christ—Only Son of God • The Trinity • Old and New Testaments • Salvation in Christ alone • Seven Ecumenical Councils

Islam
Muhammad and Koran primary authorities

New Age Religion
God is in all things (pantheism) • No sin • Channeling, astrology, self-fulfillment, mysticism • Connections to both Christianity and Eastern cults

Atheism
No belief in God

Atheists and Nonreligious
Reject supernaturalism

Buddhism
Only major religion that does not teach a living God (some forms have "impersonal deities") • Reincarnation • Nirvana • Meditation, self-denial, search for peace, enlightenment

Roman Catholic Church
Papal supremacy • Priest as mediator between man and God • Veneration of Mary/saints • Works/grace vital to salvation • Liturgical worship centered in Lord's Supper • Purgatory

Protestantism
Originated in 16th-century break with Roman Catholic Church (Reformation) • Led by Luther, Zwingli, Calvin • Justification by grace through faith • Scripture is sole authority for faith and life • Priesthood of all believers

Eastern Orthodoxy
Eastern Mediterranean churches split from Roman Catholic Church • Rejects papal supremacy • Authority in bishops • Highly liturgical, ancient, and symbolic worship • Veneration of icons

- **Greek Orthodox**
- **Russian Orthodox**
- **Other national/ethnic churches**

Lutheran
Martin Luther • Reformation theology • Creeds • Infant baptism • Liturgical worship

- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
- **Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod**
- **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**

Anglican
Combines Protestant and Catholic ideas • Book of Common Prayer • Scripture is authoritative guide • Emphasizes worship over creeds • Infant baptism • Episcopal form of government

- **Episcopal**
  Emphasizes beauty of worship • Appeals to affluent
- **Methodist**
  Stems from 18th-century revival led by John and Charles Wesley • Salvation available to all • Arminian • Sanctification as second work • Christian perfection in this life • Missionary minded
  - **African Methodist Episcopal Church**
    19th-century split based on racial issues
  - **United Methodist**
    Combines evangelical and liberal Methodists • Social activism • Progressive sanctification • Pastors appointed by bishops

Reformed
Flows from theology of Zwingli and Calvin • Sovereignty of God • Predestination • Limited atonement • Eternal security • Inerrancy of Scripture • Emphasis on creeds • Infant baptism • Presbyterian form of government

- **Church of Scotland**
- **Presbyterian**
  Westminster Confession • Both liberal and conservative groups • Worship centers on preaching
- **Quakers (Friends)**
  Mystic; the "Inner Light" • No clergy, liturgy, or sacraments • Social ministry emphasis • Pacifist
- **United Church of Canada**
  Merger of Methodists and Presbyterians
- **United Church of Christ**
  Pilgrim fathers' church • Ecumenical
- **Baptist**
  Largest block of North American Protestants • Most are Calvinist
  - **Southern Baptist**
  - **National Baptist Conv. (Am.)**
  - **National Baptist Conv. (U.S.A.)**
  - **American Baptist**
  - **Progressive Baptist Conv.**
  - **Freewill Baptists**

Anabaptist/Believers' Churches
Seeks to restore New Testament Christianity • Adult baptism only • Bible is manual for church government • Missionary minded • Stresses independence • Simple worship • Congregational form of government

- **Mennonites**
  Pacifist • Simple lifestyle
- **Church of the Brethren**
- **Churches of Christ/Disciples of Christ/Christian Church**
  Salvation occurs at baptism • Emphasize mental assent to faith • Weekly Communion
- **Independent Bible Churches**
  Fundamentalist • Independent • Anti-ecumenical • Calvinist
- **Plymouth Brethren**

Pentecostal-Charismatic
Holy Spirit oriented • Speaking in tongues • End times focus • Divine healing • Missionary minded • Originated in 20th century from roots in the Holiness Movement

- **Jesus Only Pentecostals**
  Nontrinitarian • Baptism in the name of Jesus only • Baptism of the Holy Spirit is spiritual power, not purity
  - **United Pentecostal Church**
- **Baptistic Pentecostals**
  Two works of grace • Baptism of the Holy Spirit is spiritual power, not purity
  - **Assemblies of God**
  - **International Church of the Foursquare Gospel**
- **Holiness Pentecostals**
  Three works of grace: Salvation, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Spirit • Purity and power emphasized
  - **Pentecostal Holiness Church**
  - **Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee)**
  - **Church of God in Christ**

Wesleyan-Holiness Churches
Born out of the 19th-century holiness revivals • Accepted pietism emphasis • Reemphasis on sanctification as second work • Possibility of a sinless life • Sanctification both instantaneous and progressive • Revival oriented • Missionary minded • Simple worship • Conservative in theology • Emphasis on personal ethics • Appeal to the poor

- **Wesleyan**
- **Free Methodist**
- **Salvation Army**
- **Nazarene**
- **Evangelical Friends**
- **Church of God (Anderson)**
- **Brethren in Christ**

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