

The History of Christianity

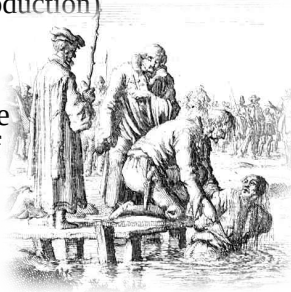
(taken from Eerdmans' Handbook to the History of Christianity)

Vol. 1, Issue 12

Introduction: The Christian Centuries, Part 10

(excerpts from Robert D. Linder's introduction)

Restoration. Many movements spawned by the Reformation wanted to forget about reforming the old church, and go directly back to the model of the New Testament. The most important expression of this "Radical Reformation" (as these groups are generally referred to) in the 16th century was Anabaptism. The Anabaptists agreed with Luther and Calvin in stressing the authority of the Bible and justification by faith in Christ as the way of salvation, but they went further. They rejected the possibility of a territorial or national church and instead emphasized what they claimed was the biblical concept of a 'gathered fellowship' composed of baptized believers only.



Many modern movements owe their existence and impetus to these 16th century Radicals. The English Baptists emerged in the 17th century among people from the most radical reform wing of the Church of England, the Separatists. They borrowed heavily from Anabaptist theology, but differed from their continental counterparts who believed that they should abstain from political involvement. Today's Baptists are the most numerous of the non-Roman Catholic Christian bodies in the world.

A Middle Way. The English church was spiritually revitalized by the Reformation movement. From the initial separation from Rome under King Henry VIII (1509-46) in 1532, the reform of the Church of England developed over the course of the 16th century. From a national Catholic church without a pope it moved towards being a church which felt it had recovered New Testament doctrines sufficiently to be evangelical but which retained enough of the best of the worship of the medieval church to be called Catholic. Under Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603), a religious compromise was put into practice which allowed most English people considerable latitude in their worship as long as they officially conformed to the new political and religious regime. This was the so-called middle way (*via media*), originally between the extremes of Romanism and Puritanism, which has characterized the Anglican communion ever since.



Raising Up the Next Generation

August 31, 2025

Hartford Bible Church, Joshua Hummel

1. The importance of Children.

a) The World values Children.

b) God values Children.

Mark 10:13-16

Psalms 127:3-5

Proverbs 17:6

2. What are we to do?

a) The importance of discipleship.

1 Corinthians 11:1

b) The importance of "little" moments.