

# RELIGION'S SLIPPERY SLOPE

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# METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

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- Debated issues of LGBT clergy & same sex marriage for 3 days at international conference
- Voted (53-47%) to support “Traditional Plan” over “One Church Plan”
- Uphold policy: practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching
- Next, Methodist Judicial Council will review the Traditional Plan’s constitutionality under church law

# METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

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- Dr. Mark Holland, Executive Director, Mainstream UMC – “At the end of the day, this was not about legislation, or tactics, or votes. This is about our people, and my heart is broken for my people.”



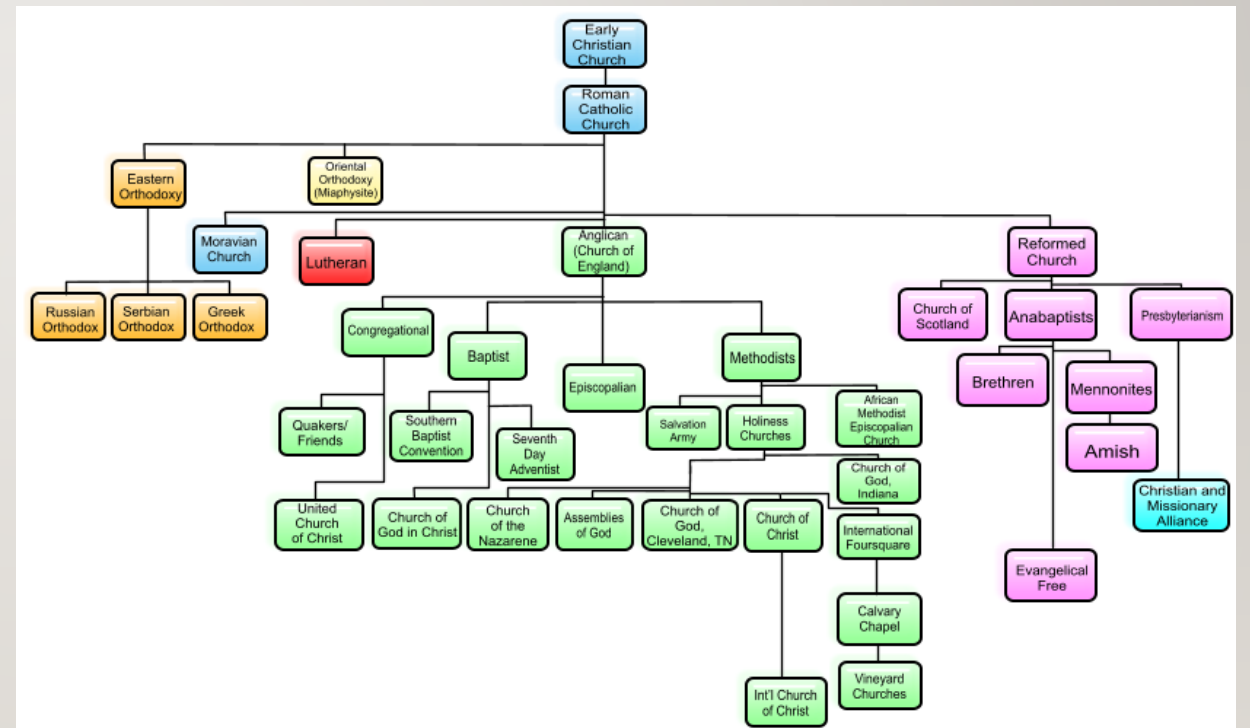
# WHAT IS THE REAL ISSUE?

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- This is emphatically NOT a LGBT, human rights, or equality issue.
- Instead, this is a symptom of a much greater problem that has plagued Christianity and religion for thousands of years.
- REAL ISSUES: Will Christians put aside personal preferences and follow God?  
Will Christians join Christ's church, unchanged from 1<sup>st</sup> century?  
Will Christians keep the focus on Christ or shift spotlight to man?

# CHANGES IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHURCH

- Binding extra requirements for salvation – Acts 15:1-2
- Negating God's commands; foreshadowing faith only – Rom. 6:1-2; Jam. 2:14-20; 2 Jn. 9-11
- Different gospel or various departures from the faith – Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Tim. 4:1-3
- Factions – 1 Cor. 1:10-15



# WE CAN'T CHANGE GOD'S WORD

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- Heb. 13:8-9 – Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- Jn. 15:14 – You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.
- Jn. 14:15 – If you love Me, keep My commandments.
- Mt. 7:21 - ...he who does the will of My Father in heaven.
- Rom. 7:12; I Jn. 5:17 – God defines sin.
- Is. 5:20 – Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil...
- Rev. 22:18-19 – Adding to or subtracting from God's word has consequences.

# OVER-SIMPLIFIED SUMMARY

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- All authority was given to Christ and extended to apostles – Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:32-33
- All Scripture is given by inspiration of God... – 2 Tim. 3:16
- We need God's authority to act in His name – Col. 3:17
- WE DO NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO REDEFINE SIN.
- WE CAN'T MAKE CHRIST'S CHURCH A DEMOCRACY.