

Visualized Bible Study Series



— Session **15** Discussion Guide —

History of The Lord's Church (Part 3)

1. What division occurred in 1054? What two religious groups were now distinct from one another? Was either of these groups following the Lord's pattern for the church?
2. As these new religious groups formed, one of the innovations was called the **doctrine of penance**. This doctrine gave rise to the infamous "**S_____ of I_____**" of the 16th century. What huge structure in Rome still stands today as a reminder of the huge sums of money collected?
3. What office of the Jewish religion did the Catholic Church institute? (cf. **Hebrews 9:1-7**) What power did the Catholic Church claim the people holding this office possess?
4. What does the Bible say about this spiritual office and the way a sinner is to obtain the forgiveness of sins? (cf. **1 Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 1:7-9; James 5:16**)
5. What did Jesus promise regarding "the Spirit of truth" in **John 16:13**? Since Jesus kept His promise in this regard and the inspired writers completed their work by 100 A.D., what is true of all latter day claims of inspired revelation?
6. Read **1 Timothy 4:1-3**. What strikes you about this reading in regard to one of the denominations we have been discussing? From where does this passage say these doctrines originate?

7. During The Middle Ages, what was the attitude of Roman Catholic Church leaders regarding the common man's ability to read and interpret the scriptures on his own? What did Jesus tell the Jews about their ability to know and understand God's will? (cf. [John 7:16,17](#))
8. The religious Reformation of the 16th century strove to give the Bible to the people in their own language. What was the reaction of the Roman Church to this effort?
9. Relate the story of John Wycliffe.
10. Name the catholic priest who in the 16th Century led a sweeping movement to reform the Roman Catholic Church. What was this man's goal in regard to the church? Did he intend to start a new church?
11. What was the formal statement of Luther's teachings produced in 1530?
12. Explain the origin and meaning of the term "Protestant Reformation."
13. Since the Protestant Reformation began in the early 1500's, what does that tell you about all Protestant churches in relationship to The Lord's church?
14. What did Luther's followers eventually begin to call themselves? What had Luther himself encouraged the people to call themselves?
15. Describe the Lutherans in regard to (1) The Roman Catholic Church and (2) The Lord's church.

16. What Protestant Church evolved in Scotland from an earlier movement in Switzerland? What was the man's name that began this movement? What had this man's followers called themselves previously in Switzerland?
17. What can we say was definitely beneficial regarding the work of men like Martin Luther and John Calvin? How did their work fall short?
18. In regard to getting back to The Lord's original intention for the church, what was the result of the increase of Protestant Denominations?
19. What Church was begun by Henry VIII and declared separate from the Roman Church in 1534? Name other churches that were an **outgrowth** of this church.
20. What prominent group began in **opposition** to the Church of England? Where was the first recognizable church of this distinction established? To what date can we trace the first of these churches on English soil?
21. When the **P**_____ **S**_____ (**Luke 8:11**) of the gospel is planted it will produce only **C**_____ (**Acts 11:26**) united together in the **O**_____ **C**_____ (**Ephesians 1:22,23; 4:4-6**) established by Christ Himself.
22. What is produced when the doctrines of men are mixed with the pure seed of the gospel?
23. What happened when sincere religious leaders became dissatisfied with all the religious confusion? What was different about the goal of these men in comparison to that of men like Calvin and Wesley?

- 24. What plea do we read time and again in the scriptures that directly relates to religious division? (cf. Psalm 133:1; Proverbs 6:16-19; John 17:11,21,22; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3,13; Philippians 2:1,2; 3:15,16)

- 25. Is it possible today to be rid of all religious division and simply go back to Jesus and the church He established? If so, how would one go about doing such?

- 26. Based on what Jesus and His disciples have revealed about religious division, how do you think Jesus would view the religious world today?

- 27. Read Jesus' prayer in John 17:20,21. Was this prayer answered?

People today are still being led by God's word and are becoming part of Christ's church. Have you seen the error of religious division? Are you disgusted with denominationalism and the way man's creeds have been put on the same plane as God's will? You too can obey the gospel and be simply a Christian, a part of the church Jesus built.

Notes:
