

## **An Overview of Church History**

### **I. Patristic Christianity (30s – 590)**

- A. The Early Church (From Pentecost to 325)  
The Age of Apologetics – Defending Truth
- B. The Roman Empire: The Church of the Empire (325 – 590)  
The Age of Polemics – Fighting Heresies

### **II. Medieval Christianity (590 – 1517)**

The Middle Ages: Church as Empire

During this period the church in the East broke from Rome (1054).

- A. The Age of Papal Hierarchy (A.D. 590 – 1054)
- B. The Age of Scholasticism or Systematization (1054 – 1517)

### **III. Modern Christianity (1517 – the Present)**

The great turning point in church history was the Protestant Reformation, “inaugurated” by Martin Luther on October 31, 1517.

- A. The Reformation (1517 – 1648)  
The Age of Protestant Reform and Polemical Confessionalism
- B. The Enlightenment (1648 – 1789)  
The Age of Rationalism and Reason
- C. Revolutions and Revivals (1789 – 1914)  
The Age of Progress
- D. The Twentieth & Twenty-First Centuries (1914 – the Present)  
The Age of Ideologies

### **An Introduction to the Protestant Reformation**

- A. Prelude to Reformation: The Renaissance
- B. Interpretations of the Reformation

- C. Culture of the Medieval Church on the eve of the Reformation

### **Echoes of the Reformation**

- A. Sola Scriptura – Scripture Alone. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- B. Sola Gratia – Grace Alone. Romans 6:14
- C. Sola Fide – Faith Alone. Ephesians 2:8-9
- D. Solus Christus – Christ Alone. John 14:6
- E. Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God Alone. Psalm 19:1

### **Protestant and Catholic: What’s the Difference?**

- A. The Church
- B. Scripture
- C. Lord’s Supper
- D. Baptism
- E. Mary
- F. Purgatory
- G. Merit
- H. Justification

### **Biblical Distinctives**

**B**-iblical Authority. 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20, 21

**A**-utonomy of the Local Church. Colossians 1:18; 2 Cor. 8:1-5, 19, 23

**P**-riesthood of the Believer. 1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 5:9, 10

**T**-wo Ordinances. Matthew 28:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

**I**-ndividual Soul Liberty. Romans 14:5, 12; 2 Corinthians 4:2; Titus 1:9

**S**-aved, Baptized Church Membership. Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 4:3

**T**-wo Offices. 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 20:17-38; Philippians 1:1

**S**-eparation of Church and State. Matthew 22:15-22; Acts 15:17-29