

History of Christianity -- [Episcopal Church Perspective]



Celtic Cross

Christian Church **begins** at Pentecost – 33 A.D.

Christian Church comes to the **British Isles** – 196 A.D. (i.e, the Church **IN** England... also Ireland, etc.)

Christian Church Begins to Become **Roman Catholic** – 325 A.D. (Constantine's **Council of Nicea**)

Church in British Isles remains independent (Celtic), not Roman. Pope sends Augustine (596 A.D) to bring the Church within Rome's orbit. 75 years later, at Synod of Whitby 664, the Church **IN** England submits to Rome.

Christian Church Splits in Half (East/West) – 1,000 A.D. Today there are **28** independent **Orthodox Churches**, each "autocephalous" (self-governed), with a "Patriarch" heading each national church--no "pope."

(Western) Christianity (Roman Catholic) Splinters—**Protestant Reformation** – 1517 A.D.

The Catholic Church in England:

- King Henry **VII** ends 100 Years of War (War of the Roses) in England – 1485 – beginning Tudor dynasty.
- Henry VII arranges marriage for son, **Prince of Wales, Arthur** to **Catherine of Aragón** (Spain)--1501
- Prince Arthur dies – 1502 – age 16 (Catherine is 17 in 1502)
- Seven years later, in 1509, the other Son, Henry **VIII**, age 17, marries Catherine (age 24) with dispensation from the Pope in 1509 and three pregnancies with male children end in deaths. Girl, **Mary**, is born and lives, but not heir to throne. No male heir will cause new War of the Roses after Henry VIII's death (*in Henry's mind*).
- Pope gives Henry VIII (age 30) the "title" **Defender the Faith** for his treatise against Martin Luther--1521.
- In 1527 Henry (age 36) asks for annulment of marriage to Catherine of Aragón (age 42) who now cannot bear children. He **MUST** have a male heir. Similar annulments were easily granted to other monarchs.
- 1533 – No response from Rome for SIX years due to opposition from Charles V of Spain. Desperate, Henry claims temporal authority over Church – but **REMAINS Catholic**: only Latin mass; no marriage for priests, etc. Henry (43) has marriage to Catherine of Aragón (48) annulled – 1533. Marries **Anne Boleyn (33)**. Produces no male heir but healthy **Elizabeth I**. With 3rd wife, Jane Seymour has male heir – sickly **Edward VI**
- 1547 – Henry VIII dies (Catholic in his own mind—though excommunicated—**NOT** creating a Church OF England) Edward VI is king (age 9). Regents rule for him and impose extreme **Protestantism**, penalty of death.
- Edward dies--1553; "Bloody" Mary reigns with extreme **Catholicism**. Returns England to Pope. Dies 1558.
- Elizabeth-I reigns 1558 – 1603. Establishes ONE Catholic/Protestant Church. Changes the Church **IN** England to the **Church OF England** –or the **Anglican Church** in **1559**. Requires only outward conformity.
- Under Elizabeth I, England surprises the world; defeats Philip II's **Spanish Armada** in 1585. England establishes Naval Supremacy. Founds **colonies** world-wide, brings the **Anglican Church** with them.
- Anglican Church in the USA becomes the **Episcopal Church** after 1776 with the help of the Episcopal Church of Scotland, since England will not help (ordain a bishop). Name change necessary since the word "Anglican" refers to the revolutionary enemy, England.
- The Episcopal Church structures itself as a **democratic** institution (relying on the ancient theology of **consensus fidelium**, consent of the faithful) with a "president" (**Presiding Bishop**) and a bi-cameral legislature (a **House of Bishops** and a **House**[clergy & lay] **of Deputies**).
- Other British colonies achieve independence and set up independent Anglican Churches as well (e.g., Canada, Nigeria, etc.) so now there are **38** "autocephalous" Anglican/Episcopal churches, each with one "Presiding" or "Arch"-Bishop. The "autocephalous" Orthodox churches each have one "Patriarch" whose "First Among Equals" is the **Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople**. For Anglicans – the **Archbishop of Canterbury**.
- Episcopal Church sees itself as **Catholic AND Reformed** – a **BRIDGE** Church for Christianity.