

Comparing Beliefs across the Christian Church

By: [Richard Wagner](#) and [Kurt Warner](#) Updated: 03-26-2016 From The Book: [Christianity For Dummies](#)



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Christian denominations are organized and worship in different ways. This handy list will help track of and compare some differences in worship, rituals, and beliefs of the largest groups of the Christian Church.

Introduction

Anglican/ Episcopalian

Means of salvation: God's grace by faith alone

How they worship: Traditional style through liturgy; contemporary liturgy is possible

Sacraments and ordinances observed: Baptism, Lord's Supper (Regard the other five that Catholics observe as "minor sacraments")

Organization: Episcopal (Clergy in local churches presided over by bishop.)

Ordain women: Yes

Who can be baptized? Infants and professing Christians

Assembly of God

Means of salvation: God's grace by faith alone

How they worship: Non-liturgical (free) worship; sometimes contemporary

Sacraments and ordinances observed: Baptism, Lord's Supper

Organization: Mixture of Congregational and Presbyterian (Local churches largely govern themselves, but don't have complete autonomy.)

Ordain women: Yes

Who can be baptized? Only professing Christians

Baptist

Means of salvation: God's grace by faith alone

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Sacraments and ordinances observed: Baptism, Lord's Supper

Organization: Congregational (Local churches are self-governing.)

Ordain women: Depending on the convention (division of churches)

Who can be baptized? Only professing Christians

Catholic

Means of salvation: God's grace, which Christians receive by faith and by observing the sacraments

How they worship: Traditional style through liturgy; contemporary liturgy is possible

Sacraments and ordinances observed: Baptism, Eucharist (Lord's Supper), Penance, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick

Organization: Papal/Episcopal (Clergy in local churches presided over by bishop; the *pope* [the pop of Rome] is the ultimate Church leader.)

Ordain women: No

Who can be baptized? Infants and professing Christians

Lutheran

Means of salvation: God's grace by faith alone

How they worship: Traditional style through liturgy; contemporary worship is possible

Sacraments and ordinances observed: Baptism, Lord's Supper

Organization: Mixed (Congregational, Presbyterian, and Episcopal structures exist.)

Ordain women: Depending on the synod (council)

Who can be baptized? Infants and professing Christians

Methodist

Means of salvation: God's grace by faith alone

How they worship: Traditional style through liturgy; contemporary worship is possible

Sacraments and ordinances observed: Baptism, Lord's Supper

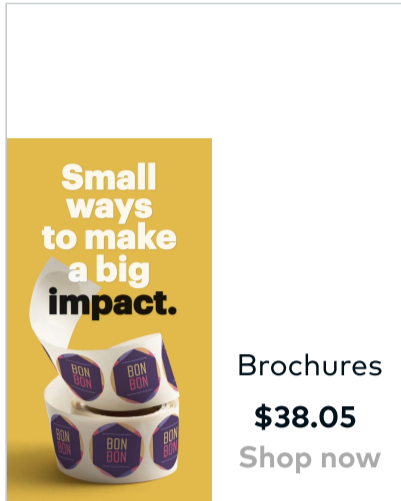
Organization: Episcopal (Clergy in local churches presided over by bishop.)

Ordain women: Yes

Who can be baptized? Infants and professing Christians

Orthodox

Means of salvation: God's grace received through faith and on-going participation in the work of



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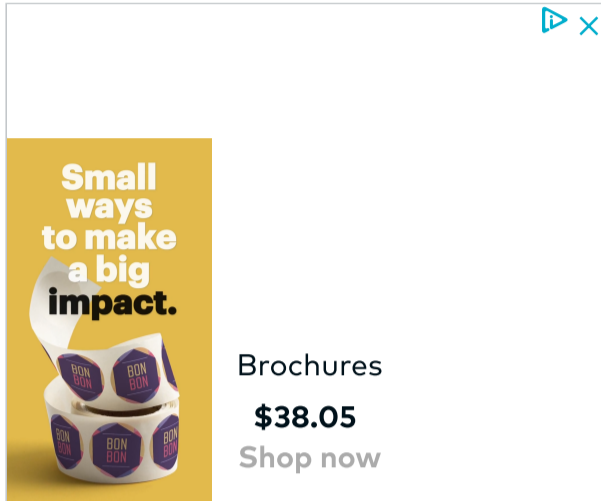
Sacraments and ordinances observed: No official position, but often observes the Catholic sacraments

Organization: Episcopal (Clergy in local churches presided over by bishop.)

Ordain women: No

Who can be baptized? Infants and professing Christians

Presbyterian



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Means of salvation: God's grace by faith alone

How they worship: Traditional style through liturgy

Sacraments and ordinances observed: Baptism, Lord's Supper

Organization: Presbyterian (A graded organizational system by presbyters or elders.)

Ordain women: Yes

Who can be baptized? Infants and professing Christians

About This Article

This article is from the book: [Christianity For Dummies](#)

About the book authors: Richard Wagner is publisher of Digitalwalk.net, a Web-based Christian discipleship magazine. He has more than a decade's broad experience in church leadership and teaching roles.

This article can be found in the category: [General \(Christianity\)](#).

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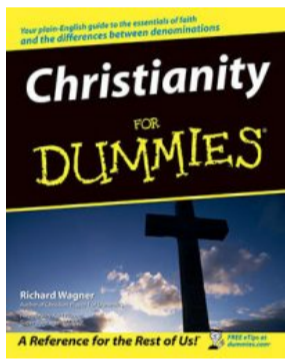
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