

Christianity

Basic Beliefs

- Monotheistic- Believe in One God.
- Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God.
- Jesus died for humanity and God raised him from the dead.
- Trinity (Godhead): God (creator), Jesus (redeemer), Holy Spirit (sanctifier).

Basic Beliefs cont.

- 10 Commandments (Code of Conduct):
 - Love God with heart, soul, and mind.
 - Love your Neighbor.
 - Worship no other Gods
 - Don't misuse name of God.
 - Observe the Sabbath (Sunday for Christians) and keep it holy.

10 Commandments cont...

- Honor and respect mother and father.
- Do not murder.
- Do not commit adultery.
- Do not steal.
- Don't tell lies about others
- Don't envy other possessions.

Sacred Texts

- **Bible** (2 parts): 1. History of the Hebrew people and their relationship with God-Old Testament. 2. Jesus' teachings and early Christian church-New Testament.

How did it Start?

- Birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Christians believe that Jesus' father is divine and mother is mortal, making Jesus both human and divine. Followers believe he is the Messiah promised and sent to the Jews. His teachings and followers began the early Christian church. He was crucified by the Romans and resurrected three days later. This act represents his love for humanity. After he left the earth, his 12 apostles carried on his work.

History of Christianity

- The apostles were eventually killed as well, due to the bad feelings toward Christians.
- After Constantine the Roman Emperor converted Christianity became a main stream religion.

Christian Symbols



The Crusades

- **The Crusades** were a series of wars by Western European Christians to recapture the Holy Land (Jerusalem) from the Muslims (1096-late 1400's). The term *Crusade* was originally applied to European efforts to retake **Jerusalem**, which was sacred to Christians as the site of the Jesus Christ's crucifixion. It was later used to designate any military effort by Europeans against non-Christians.

The Inquisition

- **The Inquisition** was established by the Pope in the Middle Ages (1200-1400), assigned to seek out, try, and sentence people guilty of heresy (contradicting the Church). With the establishment of Christianity as the state religion by the Roman emperors in the 4th century, heretics came to be considered enemies of the state. The church generally disapproved of force and physical penalties, but as the church became more powerful, anyone in disagreement could be accused and punished for witchcraft, blasphemy, unchristian actions, etc.

The Reformation

- In the 16th century people wanted to get rid of medieval practices and restore the practices and doctrines that are found in the Bible. They used the New Testament as a model for the church.
- This led to a split between the Roman Catholic church and the reformers/protesters whose beliefs became known as Protestantism.

Reasons For the Reformation

- People were reading more and interpreting the Bible differently than the Pope.
- The Popes of the era were very worldly.
- The sale of indulgences-salvation
- Significant political changes. The Holy roman Empire was being replaced by the evolution of the nation-state.
- People were restless and dissatisfied with the church . People wanted more spiritual guidance from the church.

Martin Luther



- He believed:
 - that Christ was the only mediator between God and man.
 - forgiveness of sin comes through God's grace and our faith, not church leaders.
- Wrote the 95 Theses- disagreements with the Church and posted them. Did not want to leave the Church, only fix it

More Martin Luther

- He disagreed with the indulgences-selling salvation.
- He was eventually excommunicated from the Roman Catholic church
- Lutheranism quickly became the official religion of Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland. Spread world-wide soon after.
- Brought to America by Puritans and Pilgrims

King Henry VIII



- King of England from 1509 to 1547
- Received a good education in languages and theology.
- Instituted the Reformation of the Church of England to secure a divorce from his first wife.

King Henry-Church of England.

- His first wife produced no heir, so he concluded that his marriage displeased God (Leviticus 20:21)
- Asked the Pope for a divorce. Pope refused.
- His chief minister suggested that he break ties with the Pope and the church and he establish his own church with archbishop of Canterbury in charge of the new church.

Henry-Church Leader...



- Henry became head of the Church.
- All monasteries and nunneries were dissolved.
- Required oaths of loyalty. Executed those who disagreed.
- The Mass remained in Latin, not given English.

Results of the Reformation

- Division of Christendom into protestant and Catholic areas.
- The development of national churches which strengthened feelings of nationalism.

Religious Artwork

- Christians chose to express their faith through their artwork.

Michelangelo's
Creation of Man



Leonardo Da Vinci

The Last Supper

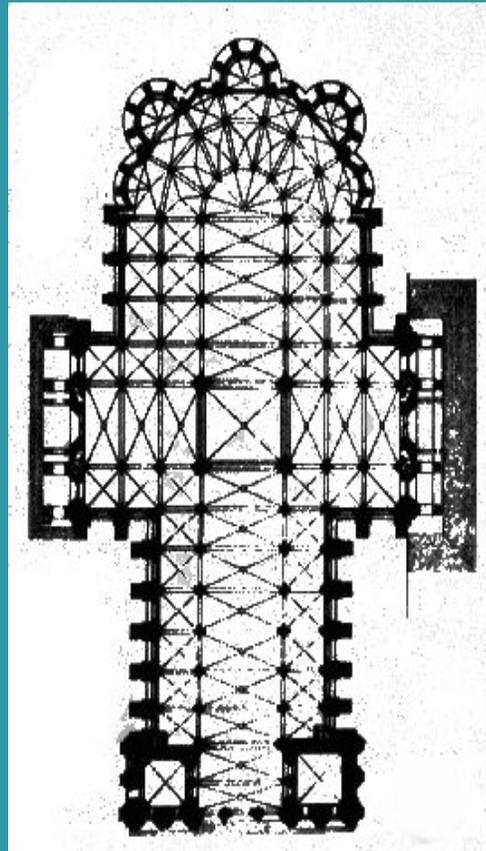
Virgin of the Rocks



Christian Art and Architecture



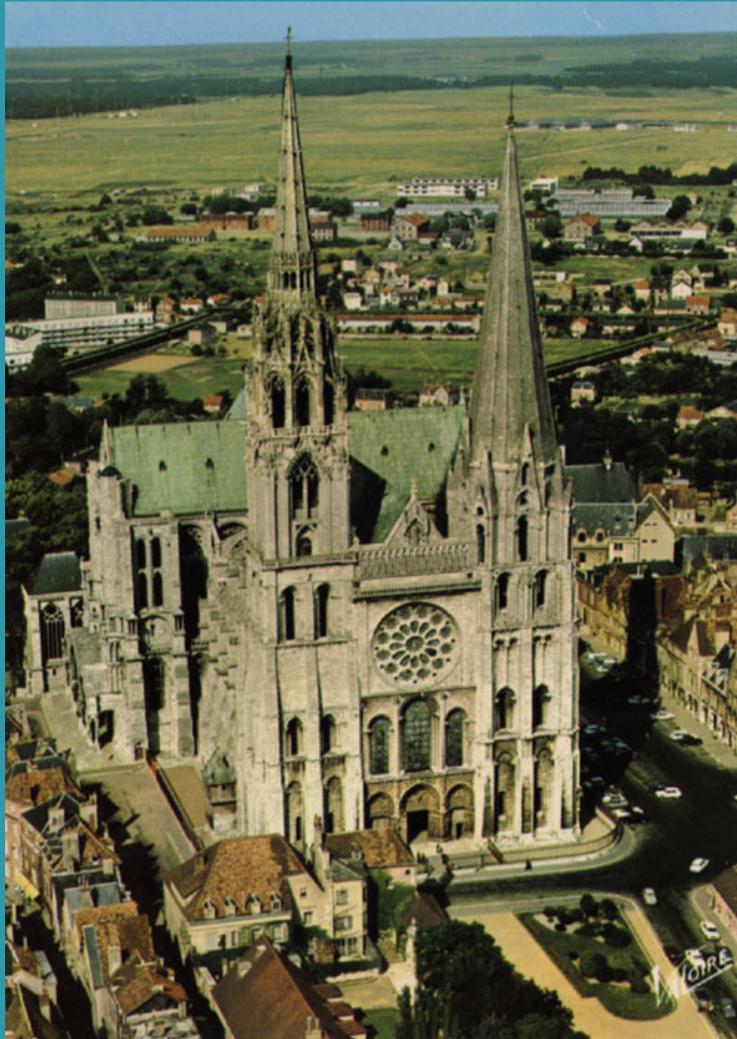
Religious Architecture



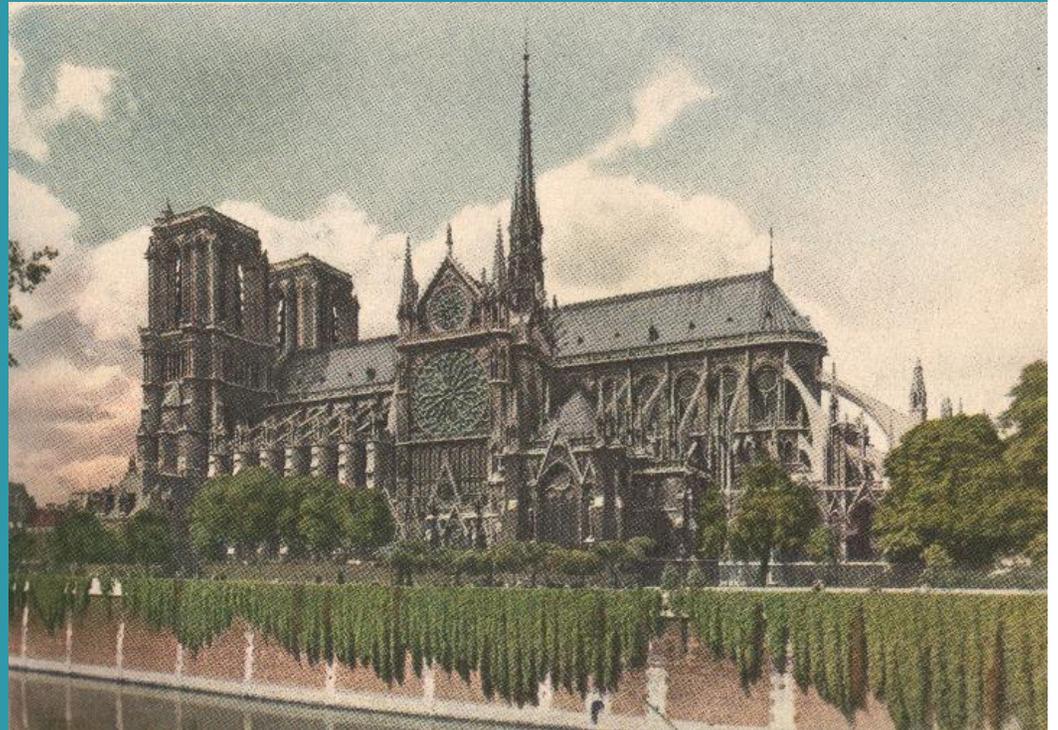
- Cathedrals were built by early Christians as houses of worship.
- Gothic cathedrals were built in the shape of a cross and usually were topped with spires or steeples.

Gothic Cathedrals

Chartres



Notre Dame



Different Sects

- From the beginning, many different groups consider themselves Christian, they have the same basic beliefs and roots.
- Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Anglican, Latter-day Saint, Protestant, and many more.