

# Combined Fellowship: Church History

---

BPCWA COMBINED FELLOWSHIP (30th Aug 2013)

## CHURCH HISTORY SERIES 2

### Notable Churchmen

Aurelius Augustine (AD354-430)<sup>1</sup>

- Christian mother prayed for his salvation, pagan father
- Became Bishop of Hippo, expounding on total depravity of man and saving grace of Christ, against Pelagian heresy (man born good and had free will)
- Teachings influenced Luther, Calvin
- Beginning of Errors
  - No salvation outside of visible church. Promoted ascetic lifestyle of monasticism, encouraged relics, introduced purgatory.
  - Paved way for Roman Catholic superstitions.

Jerome (340-420)

- Produced Latin Vulgate, short tempered, admired for scholarship
- Lived in cave as hermit, carried out work as scholar and Bible translator

Leo I or Leo the Great (AD390-461)

- Bishop of Rome for 21 years
- Tried to get Bishop of Rome recognised as Universal Bishop. Used Matt 16:18 for support.
- Papacy traced to him, "Pope Leo"

### Beginning of Middle Ages

**Pope Gregory the Great** (AD590-604)

- Became Bishop of Rome, set standards for those after. 1st Pope of Rome
- Chief architect of papal system, influencing history of the world
- Born in rich senatorial family in Rome, excellent political, military manager.
- Sent missionaries to convert pagans in Europe
- Claimed universal supremacy proclaimed by Leo I, but protested against Patriarch of Constantine calling himself "Universal Bishop", calling him "forerunner of Antichrist"
- Called himself "Successor of Peter", "Vicar of Christ on earth"
- Claimed that there was no salvation outside of Roman Catholic church, and to be head of church
- Introduced purgatory, encouraged images and pictures (though did not worship them)

### **Christianisation of Britain**

- Much of Asia Minor and Europe was evangelised, but not to England
- Pope Gregory sent monk Augustine to Anglo-Saxons, England in AD597 with 40 followers.
- King of Kent's wife, Bertha, was Christian princess from Paris. After 9 months, 10,000 professed conversion.
- Setup headquarters in Canterbury and built a great cathedral. Canterbury became centre of Christianity to other parts of England.
- Appointed "Bishop of English" by Pope Gregory. Rome's dominion slowly widened.

---

<sup>1</sup> B.C. is used to date events before the birth of Jesus. A.D. is the short form for the Latin phrase *anno Domini*, which means "in the year of our Lord," (Christ's birth) and is used for dates after the Lord Jesus's birth. Some of the unbelieving world prefer to use the terms: Before the Common Era (B.C.E.) and the Common Era (C.E.), which are exactly the same as B.C. and A.D. This is because they do not want to have any reference to or recognise Christ coming into this world.

# Combined Fellowship: Church History

---

## Changing Face of Church

Changes	When	What
Papal Claims	7th century	<p>Pope became powerful political figure, claiming supremacy over all churches.</p> <p>Presbyterian system gave way to Episcopal/ Papal dictatorial system.</p> <p><i>Catechism of Catholic Church</i> - Christ gave Peter the keys to the church, pastoral office belongs to church's foundation, continued by bishops under primacy of Pope as Peter's successor.</p> <p>Pope was Vicar of Christ, pastor of entire church, exercising full supreme and universal power unhindered.</p>
Transubstantiation of Lord's Supper adopted	831	<p>Became official doctrine in 1215.</p> <p>CCC - in Eucharist, body and blood, with soul and divinity, substantially contained. "real" substantial presence whereby Christ makes Himself wholly present. Bread and wine converted.</p> <p>Worship of Eucharist expresses faith in real presence of Christ, with solemn veneration.</p>
Purgatory		<p>1st introduced by Augustine, bishop of Hippo.</p> <p>Doctrine favoured by Gregory the Great, official article of faith in 1439.</p> <p>CCC - All who die in God's grace but imperfectly purified are assured of eternal salvation but after death undergo purification to achieve holiness necessary to enjoy joy of heaven. Different from punishment of damned.</p>
Prayer for Dead & Prayers to Saints	787	<p>Veneration of saints and martyrs were officially recognised</p> <p>Buying of forgiveness of sins for the dead through Indulgences and Masses</p>
Adoration of Mary	Started from 5th C	<p>Adopted pagan religions' "Mother of God", Mary was worshipped by end 6th C.</p> <p>Doctrines introduced later:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Immaculate Conception of Mary (1854)</li> <li>- Assumption of Mary (1950)</li> </ul> <p>CCC - Mary enriched for her role, "full of grace", redeemed from conception</p>
Auricular Confession	763	<p>Public Confession traditionally practised for sinners to be restored to church fellowship after a fall</p> <p>Leo I made confessions compulsory but private between confessor and priest (to prevent scandals)</p>
Places of Worship		<p>Church buildings became ornate as churches grew more wealthy</p> <p>Elaborate designs, paintings, sculptures made buildings look more idolatrous</p>
Sacerdotalism (priest-craft)		<p>Increasing feature of worship services in church; altar instead of pulpit took centre place in churches</p> <p>Priests became special caste; started to wear distinct colourful robes after hundreds of years</p>
Incense	5th C	<p>Originally introduced for purposes of repelling insects; considered pagan by Tertullian</p> <p>Became more used and associated with worship</p>

# Combined Fellowship: Church History

---

## Monasticism

- Ascetic practices of monastic system condemned by Paul  
Colossians 2:23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.
- Asceticism found in East, developed within Hinduism and Buddhism
- 1st promoted by Anthony (251AD) who was impressed by rich young ruler (Mk 10:17-27) - sold all, lived solitarily initially near home, then tomb, and finally to mountain

Monastic Movements	Origins	What
Benedictine Order	Italy AD529	Strict order popular with rich, but got corrupt with prosperity
Cluniac Movement	France AD910	Started to counteract corruption in Benedictine monks. Freedom and independence of church from nobility or state. Advocated celibacy.
Cistercians	Burgundy AD1115	Founded to keep original Benedictine purity Known as Protestant because they were against Catholic doctrine of Immaculate Conception. Salvation by faith alone. Quoted by Calvin. Wrote hymn "Jesus the Very Thought of Thee" by Bernard of Clairvaux.
Franciscan Order	St Francis of Italy	Mendicant order ie practiced begging, well known for philosophies Eg. Occam's Razor - when you have 2 competing theories that make exactly the same predictions, the simpler one is better, "simplest answer is usually the correct answer", "Keep it Simple, Stupid" Promoted agriculture, education, care for poor, sick, dying Popularity made them forget their poverty, joined vicious cycle of wealth and worldliness
Dominican Order	Spanish man Dominic AD1215	Practiced begging Conducted Inquisition and death of many Protestant Christians Inquisito Haereticae pravitatis "inquiry on heretical perversity" to silence preachers of good news of Christ who direct believers to God's word as sole authority
Military Orders	Palestine	Knights of St John of Jerusalem(1048), Knights Templar (1119) Originally to care for an protect pilgrims, later took up arms against Muslim Arabians Became rich, influence spread to various lands

## Gregory to Charlemagne

### Rise of Islam

- Islam means obedience or surrender
- Muhammed (born AD570) lost parents when young, spent much time praying alone in desert, claimed to hear God speak
- Had conversations with Jews and heretical Christians about apocryphal Gospels.
- Impressed with idea of one God, he replaced polytheistic religion of Arabia with Allah
- Started writing Koran at ~40 years old, spent 1 year in mountain cave, claiming to receive divine revelation from angel Gabriel
- Claimed he was greatest prophet of all, Jesus was prophet and holy man but not Son of God

# Combined Fellowship: Church History

---

- Jesus was Messenger of God, Messiah to guide children of Israel with new Scriptures
- Belief in Jesus is required in Islam, virgin conception given miraculous ability by God but not His own power. Claimed that Jesus was not crucified but God ascended him bodily into Heaven
- Jesus will return near day of judgement to restore justice, defeat Antichrist
- Jesus was Muslim who followed "straight path", denies Jesus' Incarnation and Divinity
- Encountered intense opposition in Mecca, fled to Medina. 9 years later, he returned to Mecca, took over the city and destroyed the idols.
- Salvation through 5 pillars of works
  - Confession of God and Muhammed
  - Prayers at stated intervals 5x/day, facing Mecca
  - Almsgiving
  - Fasting during Ramadan from sunrise to sunset
  - Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once
- After conquest of Mecca, Muhd sent messengers to kings demanding recognition as God's prophet - propagated new religion by sword
- By the time he died in 632AD, he had won over all Arabia to Islam
- Theologians believe that God allowed rise of Islam to His idolatrous church. Muslims burnt church buildings and Scriptures in every Christian city they conquered. Early copies of Scriptures destroyed.
- Islam spread all the way from India to Atlantic, Central Asia and China, and southern Asia and Malaya. Indonesia has largest Muslim population.

## **Conversion of Germanic tribes**

Pope began to be kingmakers and exercising more political power

- Pope cultivated strong alliance with Frankish kings Pepin and Charlemagne in 8<sup>th</sup> century – needed for protection of Rome from Lombards (German tribe). Kings used Pope for moral support for their throne.
- Pope crowned Pepin king in 752
- Pope made Charlemagne emperor of Holy Roman Empire in AD800 because he saved Rome from Lombards
- Marked beginning of symbiotic relationship between Church and State

## **Worship of Images**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Century: Gregory the Great allowed use of pictures and images in church. Purpose was for beauty and instruction, not used for worship.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Century: People started to worship images, praying before them superstitiously.
- AD726: Eastern Emperor Leo III required images to be placed high so no worshippers could kiss them. This made the Patriarch of Constantinople furious, leading to insurrections in Constantinople, Greece and Syria. Emperor ordered removal of all images.
- Dispute about breaking of images
  - AD754 Emperor Constantine V at Synod meeting called for prohibition of image worship because it was contrary to Scriptures. Church resisted, resulting in violent struggle.
  - When Leo IV succeeded Constantine V as Emperor, he reversed policy of Leo III. He decreed that images could be used for worship

## **Disorder and Intrigue**

False Decretals: Roman Catholic church built on false foundations

- Papal decrees, judicial decisions, mandates, edicts and similar official pronouncements
- Contained decisions & laws of Bishop of Rome going back to 1<sup>st</sup> century, allegedly supporting Pope as supreme ruler of church and state

# Combined Fellowship: Church History

---

## Donation of Constantine

- Aimed to deceive people into thinking that Pope's political was from 500yrs ago, the only in time of Pepin & Charlemagne
- False documents used to strengthen claims to unlimited authority in temporal realm. Pope Nicholas was the 1<sup>st</sup> to use them, declaring "that which Pope has decided is to be observed by all".

## Pope (spiritual, ecclesiastical power) vs Emperor (temporal, political power)

- Emperor was more powerful than pope in secular affairs
- Pope was more powerful than Emperor because God ordained both powers. Spiritual power implies subordination of temporal authority to spiritual authority, even in civil matters. Analogy that God created sun & moon, but moon receives light from sun. Hence, Pope crowned Charlemagne in Rome.
- There was a strong ambition for political power, and the strife threw Europe into political disorder. There was a rapid succession of popes because of power struggle – Pope John XII was labelled "monster of iniquity", John excommunicated the Synod, Boniface strangled predecessor to death. If Popes were thus, how much more corrupt would the priests be?
- When Hildebrand became Pope, he wanted to remodel church and Christendom. So, he established supremacy of Pope over church and state
  - Abolished Simony – buying & selling of church offices. Cut off rich from acquiring power by buying clergy titles.
  - Abolished Investiture – claim of kings and rulers to appoint bishops and abbots. Church positions conferred by layman was considered sin, and church leaders were servants of church.
- Pope Gregory VII (Hildebrand) vs King Henry IV (1073)
  - Gregory abolished Simony & Investiture. Antagonized Henry IV who sold ecclesiastical positions & appointed friends
  - Gregory summoned Henry to Rome but Henry IV refused and deposed Pope instead. Gregory then excommunicated Henry, and issued interdict banning churches governed by the excommunicated king.
  - With the interdict bans on churches, all church services could not be conducted
  - 7yrs later, Henry attacked Rome, drove Gregory into exile where he died
- Papacy was most powerful in time of Pope Innocent III in AD1198. Followed Gregory/Hildebrand's policy. People believed that the pope was all-powerful and every ruler was under his control after humiliation of Henry IV. Pope Innocent III made King John of England, and King Philip of France bow before him.
  - Launched crusade against Albigenses who wanted to separate themselves from corruptions of Roman Catholics, live simple life according to Scriptures. Falsely charged them of heresy, massacred many. Forerunners of Reformation.

## Weakening of Papacy AD1294

- Papal power was unabated until Pope Boniface VIII. Boniface released papal bull "Unam Sanctum" stating that every human is subject to pope, and that it was necessary for salvation. Led to rebellion by kings & King Philip the Fair, King of France, put him in prison where he died in a month.
- Fighting between popes-2 men claimed to be Pope, 1 in Rome, other in Avignon (France). As a result, there was confusion because Roman Catholics believe that salvation depends on Peter's successor

## Crusades

### Holy Land, Holy City, Islam

- AD614 Persians conquered Jerusalem, destroyed many except Church of Nativity because it had paintings of men in Persian robes paying tribute to baby Jesus

# Combined Fellowship: Church History

---

- Jerusalem conquered by Caliph Omar in 638 after 2yr siege. Built mosque named after him – Dome of the Rock. Nearby mosque el-Aksa built by Caliph al-Walid.

## Crusades

- Peter the hermit received cruel treatment when he went on pilgrimage. This stirred up his hatred for Turks. As a result, Pope Urban II granted him permission for crusade (Holy War) against Turks & he went from city to city preaching crusade against Turks
- Pope promised forgiveness of past, present and future sins for crusaders. Crusades were based on sentiment and superstition.

### 1) 1<sup>st</sup> Crusade (1095-99)

- large numbers, but untrained. Turks killed most of the crusaders at Nicea
- 2yrs later they captured Jerusalem in a ruthless, bloody conquest

### 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Crusade (1147-1187)

- To support the new kingdom in Jerusalem, Bernard of Clairvaux called for 2<sup>nd</sup> Crusade
- 2 armies led by King of France & Germany marched to Holy Land. They met with severe resistance in Asia Minor, and failed to take Damascus, capital of Syria
- The demoralised survivors returned home. But the defeat encouraged the Muslims, led by Saladin, to lay siege to Jerusalem, capturing it 1187

### 3) 3<sup>rd</sup> Crusade (1187-1192)

- After Jerusalem was captured by Saladin, 3 kings of Western Europe – Frederick Barbarossa of Germany, Philip Augustus of France, Richard e Lionheart of England organised the 3<sup>rd</sup> Crusade
- The German Emperor drowned while crossing river in Asia Minor
- Philip & Richard went by sea, and laid siege to Acre on coast of Palestine. But the armies contracted disease and got very sick
- Also, Philip and Richard couldn't get along, so Philip returned to France
- Richard continued, reaching Emmaus (7miles from Jerusalem). He fought & won Saladin

### 4) Children's Crusade (1212)

- Stephen (French boy) claimed Christ appeared to tell him that where kings & knights had failed, children would accomplish with God's help
- Nicholas from Germany spread the news, thousands of boy & girls with average age of 12 were recruited
- Many died en-route especially when crossing cold Alps. Considerable number reached, but the sea did not divide for them.
- Many returned home, but 5000 took 7 merchant ships promising to bring them to Palestine. Of these, 2 ships sank while 5 were manned by slave traders, and the children were sold to Muslims

## The Crusades were unbiblical.

- John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.
- 2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

After 2 centuries, 5million lives lost, but the purpose remained unaccomplished