

Liberty Church

Foundations

Foundations

**Theology is not just for academics or
“professional” Christians.
Theology is simply what you believe about
God and the things of God.**



Foundations

Why should we even study theology?

“¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

The *teaching* of “all that [Jesus] has commanded” includes the interpretation and application of the Gospel, the New Testament, and arguably the whole Bible.

Foundations Who are We?

Human Parts



Foundations

Sin Causes Separation of Relationship & Death

"For the wages of sin is death..."

- Romans 6:23a

BODY



SOUL



SPIRIT



Foundations

BODY



SOUL



SPIRIT



Justification: A Relationship With God Again

“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

- Romans 6:11

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Sanctification: The Cleaning of Your Life

“put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

- Ephesians 4:22-24

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Glorification: Resurrection of the Body

“²¹ By his power to rule all things, he will change our humble bodies and make them like his own glorious body.”

- Philippians 3:21

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Week 1 - Theology & Its Sources

Week 2 - The Bible & Story

Week 3 - Man, Sin & Salvation

Week 4 - The Church

Week 5 - Devotional Practices: Meditation, Prayer, Fasting

Week 6 - How to Study the Bible

Week 7 - Shaping/Formative Practices: Simplicity, Solitude, Submission

Week 8 - Church Practices: Confession, Worship, Celebration

Foundations

Discussion:

- 1) **What is the Church? Why does it exist?**
- 2) **Why are there so many different denominations? Which one is right? Are there any that are wrong? How can you tell?**
- 3) **What is the purpose for Christians in the church?**

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What is the Church?

To best understand who we are today, we need to look at what God has done in the past

God has chosen and elected individuals to be the heads of a community who are based in a location to dispense the Truths of God to the World.



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What is the Church?



There are three major “elections” and calls in Biblical History:

HEAD - COMMUNITY - LOCATION

Adam - Humanity - Eden

HEAD - COMMUNITY - LOCATION

Abraham - Israel - Promised Land

HEAD - COMMUNITY - LOCATION

Jesus - The Church - The World

Jesus - The Church - The World

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ADAM
(All Humanity)



“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

- Genesis 1:28 (ESV)

The Whole World

Foundations

ADAM
(All Humanity)



The purpose of mankind was to Steward and Spread “Eden” (The Kingdom of God) throughout the entire world.

The Original Purpose of Mankind:
To bring the presence of God to all the world as God’s Representatives

The Whole World

Foundations

ADAM
(All Humanity)



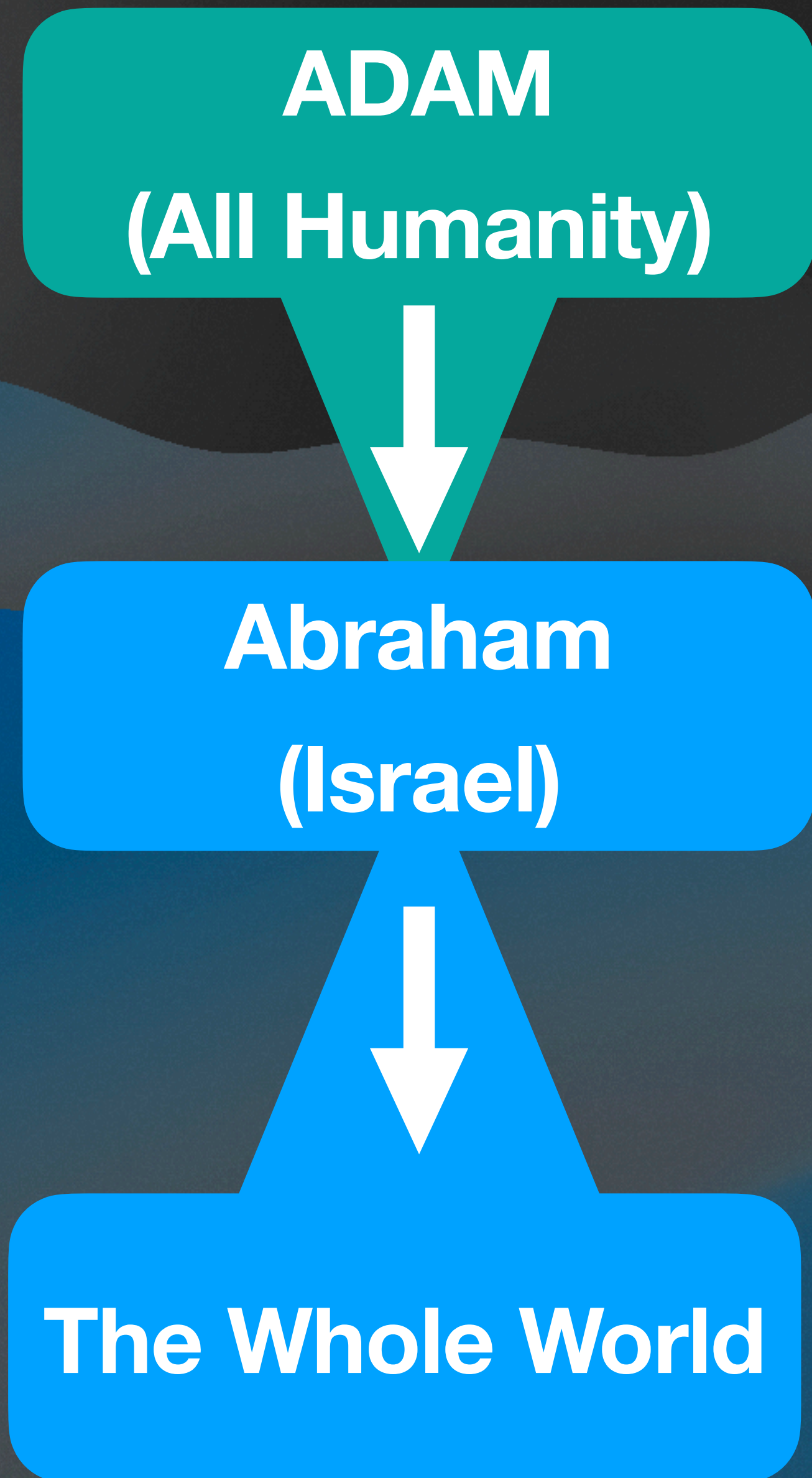
The Whole World

However, Adam failed.

His sin separated him and all humanity from God's Presence.

God would need to establish a new plan to bring Eden (The Kingdom) to the world.

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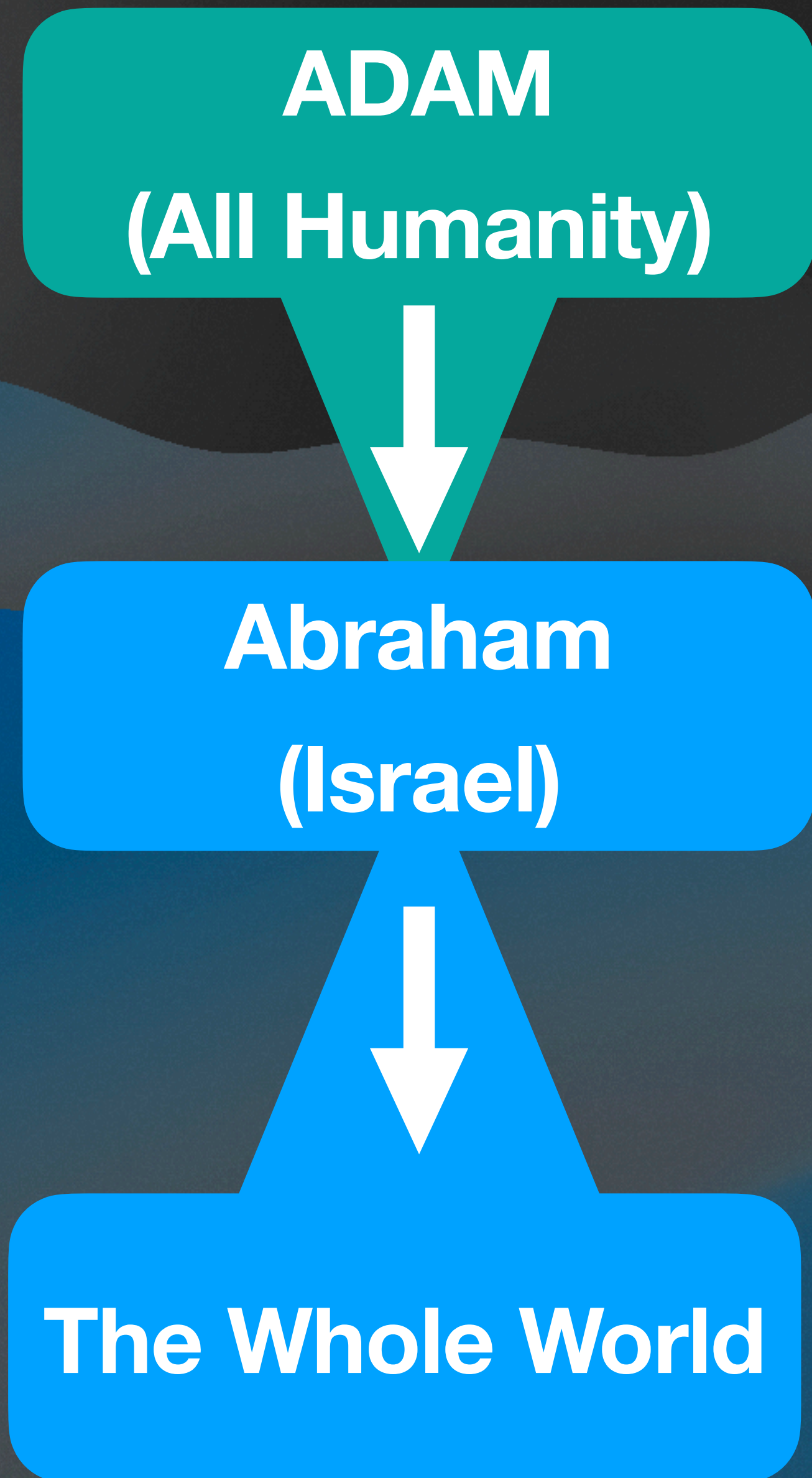
“Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.

² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)

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The purpose of Israel, those who descended from Abraham, was to bear the truths of God that He revealed to Israel (The Law) and be a witness to the fallen world on God's behalf.

The original purpose of mankind, to spread Eden (God's Kingdom) throughout the earth is seen in the formation of the nation of Israel.

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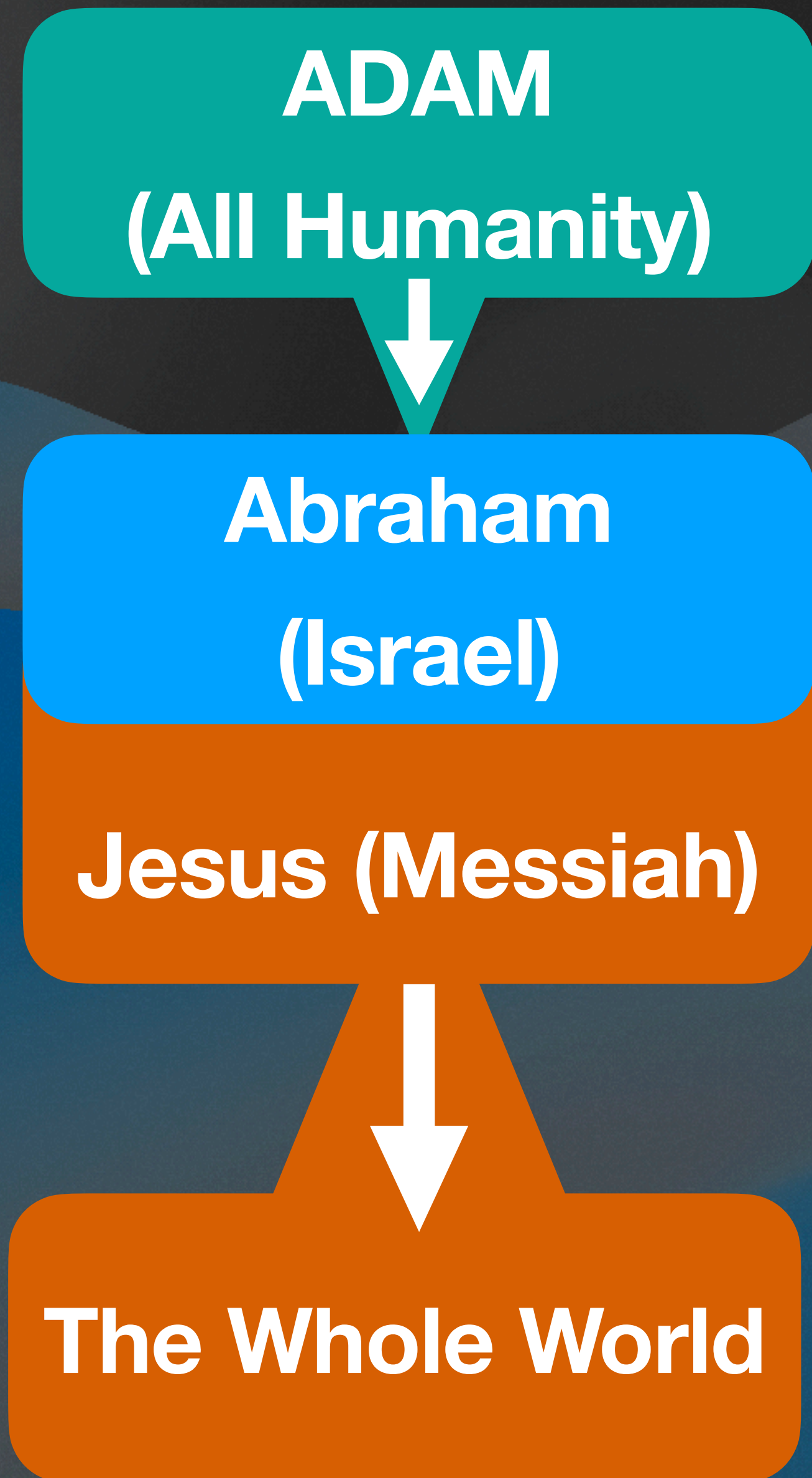


However, Israel also failed in their task.

“The city of Jerusalem once followed the LORD, but she is no longer loyal to him. She used to be filled with fairness; people there lived the way God wanted. But now, murderers live there. Jerusalem, you have become like the scum left when silver is purified; you are like wine mixed with water. Your rulers are rebels and friends of thieves. They all accept money for doing wrong, and they are paid to cheat people. They don’t seek justice for the orphans or listen to the widows’ need.”

- Isaiah 1:21-23 (CEV)

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“You were all baptized into Christ, and so you were all clothed with Christ. This means that you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

28 In Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek, slave and free person, male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus.

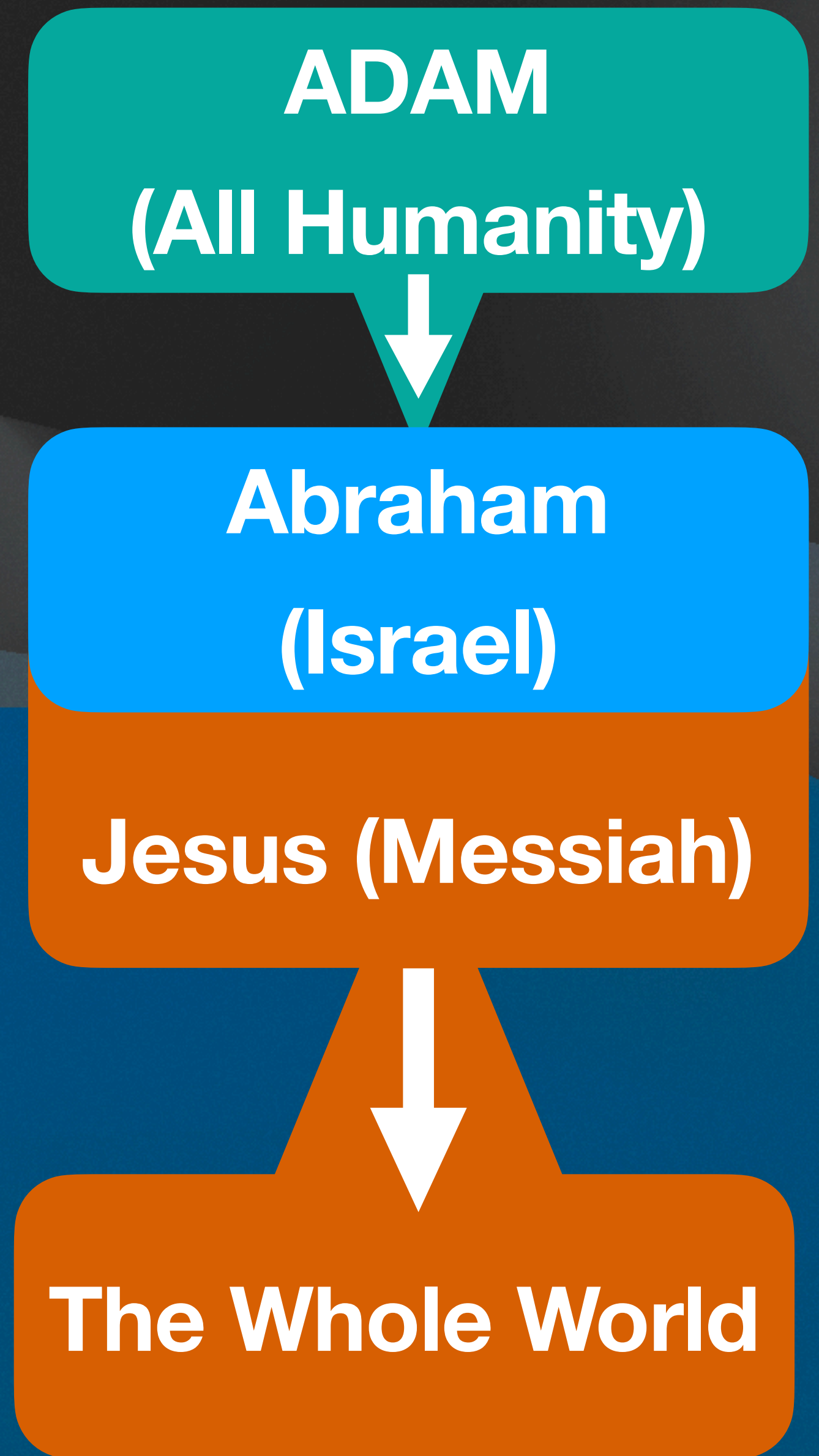
29 You belong to Christ, so you are Abraham’s descendants. You will inherit all of God’s blessings because of the promise God made to Abraham.”

- Galatians 3: 26-29

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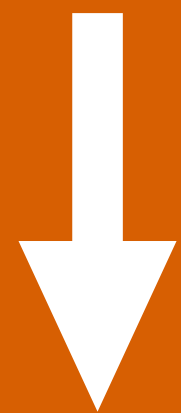


Mankind is brought back into the original design to effectively Steward and Spread the Kingdom of God (Eden) to the whole world.

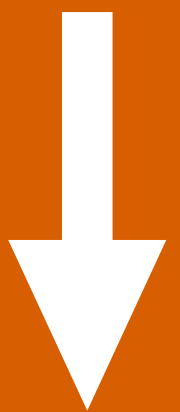


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Jesus (Messiah)



THE
CHURCH



The Whole World

The Church is now the vehicle that God uses to Steward the Kingdom of God as well as Spread the Kingdom of God throughout the World.

“¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All power in heaven and on earth is given to me.

¹⁹ So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

²⁰ Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always, even until the end of this age.”

-Matthew 28:18-20 (NCV)

Foundations

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Roman Catholic

Eastern Orthodox

Protestant

← PAST & FUTURE →

Foundations

So how did the Church get here?



EARLY CHURCH (30 - 312 CE)

CONSTANTINE (312 - 324 CE)

EAST & WEST (476 - 1453 CE)

REFORMATION (16TH CENTURY CE)

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EARLY CHURCH (30 - 312 CE)

The early church, was heavily persecuted.

To be a Christ follower (a Christian, which was used as a derogatory term) usually came with heavy costs.

A Christian could expect to be socially outcast, losing their job if employed or losing business if working for themselves.

Being persecuted and martyred was almost guaranteed in the early Church. Yet the Church spread and was effective to the Glory of God!



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EARLY CHURCH (30 - 312 CE)

“³² Remember those days in the past when you first learned the truth. You had a hard struggle with many sufferings, but you continued strong. ³³ Sometimes you were hurt and attacked before crowds of people, and sometimes you shared with those who were being treated that way. ³⁴ You helped the prisoners. You even had joy when all that you owned was taken from you, because you knew you had something better and more lasting. ³⁵ So do not lose the courage you had in the past, which has a great reward.”

- Hebrews 10:32-35 (NCV)



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CONSTANTINE (312 - 324 CE)

Constantine is most famous for his “Edict of Milan” in 312 CE, which granted Christians religious freedom in the Roman Empire.

Amid theological debates, Constantine called for the first “Church” council to unify the Church. This was the Council of Nicaea (325 CE). This gave us the Nicene Creed!

Constantine also move the capital from Rome to Byzantium (later named Constantinople, modern day Istanbul).



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CONSTANTINE (312 - 324 CE)

While the Edict of Milan granted religious freedom to Christians allowing the faith to be accepted, it also brought a lot of people to the Church... many who were not primarily looking for salvation which caused a lot of problems for the Church.

By moving the capital East, dispute over the head of the Church, Rome or Constantinople began and caused disputes.



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EAST & WEST (476 - 1453 CE)

Rome's fall in 476 CE began a division between the "Eastern" church and "Western" church. The Eastern church (Greek) used different rites than the Western (Latin).

The Eastern church is now known as the Eastern Orthodox Church.

The Western church is now known as the Roman Catholic Church.



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EAST & WEST (476 - 1453 CE)

In 1054 CE, both the Eastern church and Western church claimed true leadership of the Church and condemned the other.

In 1453, Rome refused to help Constantinople during the Muslim invasion, solidifying the divide which stands to this day.

In 1965, both the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches nullified their condemnation of each other.



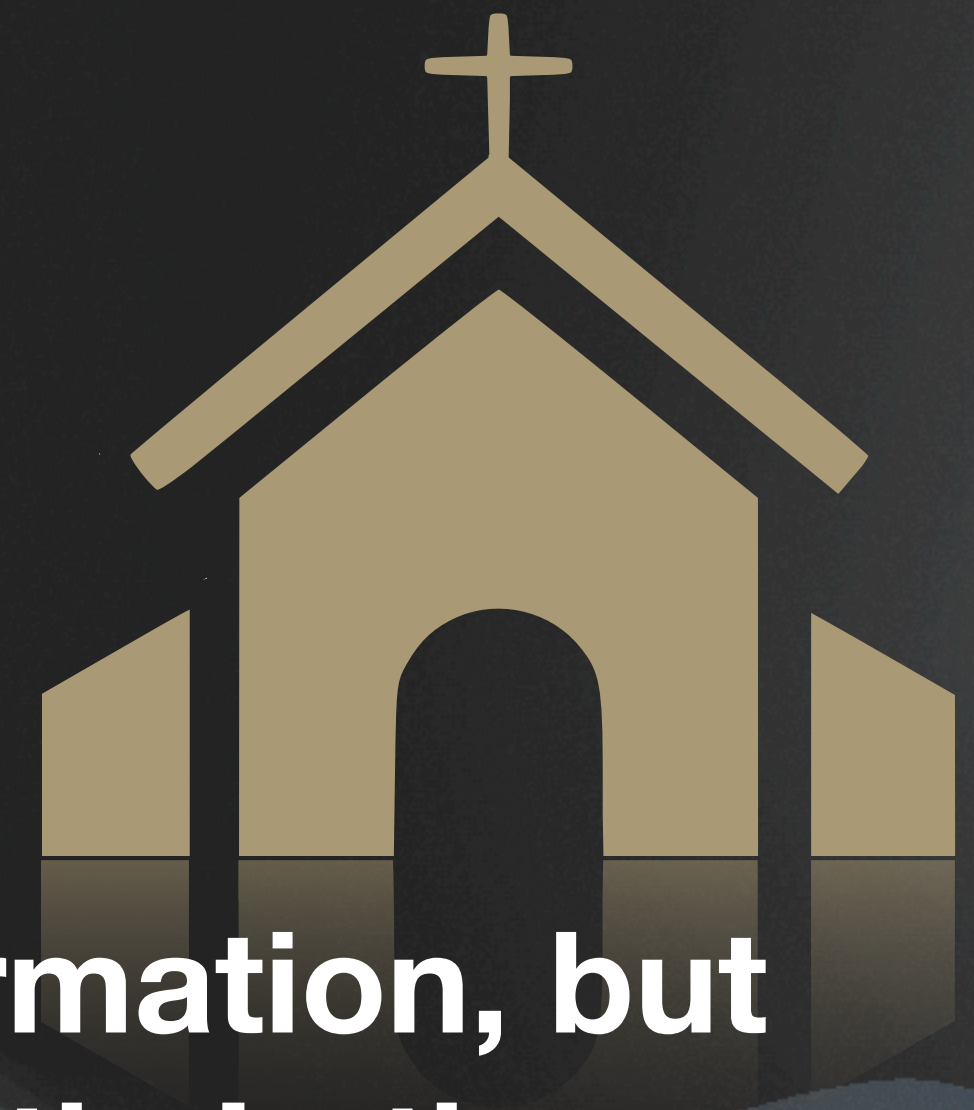
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REFORMATION (16TH CENTURY CE)

The Roman Catholic church had many attempts at reformation, but the tipping points occurred in the 16th century with Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin.

Martin Luther is the most famous of the reformers for challenging the Roman Catholic church's teaching and practice of indulgences.

Indulgences were provided by the Pope and could be “purchased” to shorten time in purgatory and therefore reduce the penalty for sins.



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REFORMATION (16TH CENTURY CE)



The Reformation shifted the Church to the three “Solas”:

“Sola Fide” - By Faith Alone (Romans 1:17)

“Sola Gratia” - By Grace Alone (Ephesians 2:8)

“Sola Scriptura” - Scripture Alone (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Foundations

Roman Catholic

Eastern Orthodox

Protestant

Today there are three confessions, or major practices, of Christianity:

- Roman Catholic
- Eastern Orthodox
- Protestant

**All confess the Apostle's Creed and Nicene Creed
and are therefore truly Christian.**

Foundations

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Roman Catholic

Eastern Orthodox

Protestant

← PAST & FUTURE →

Foundations

Common Mistakes:

- The (true) Church is not the building but the people.

“⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house...”

- 1 Peter 2:5

“¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”

- 1 Corinthians 3:16

Foundations

Common Mistakes:

Focusing on Denominations, not Core Beliefs

“with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”

- Ephesians 4:2-7

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Common Mistakes:

Neglecting the Mission - Spread the Kingdom

“⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Acts 1:8

“⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

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Discussion:

Q&A

Liberty Church

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