


The Development of Denominations Anabaptist

I. Have you ever heard of an Anabaptist? Not me!

A. The Catholics were the first, but then came the Reformation.

1. First, the divide between the Catholics and Eastern Orthodox in 1054 AD
2. Then the Protestant Reformation in the 16th Century – Lutherans & Anglicans
3. Then came Anabaptist. Just b/c we're Baptist, doesn't mean we're Anabaptist.
4. Generally, Anabaptist believe in a "believer's baptism."
 - a. As opposed to infant baptism
 - b. "Anabaptist" means "one who baptizes again."
 - c. Early Anabaptist Hubmaier, "An infant baptism was a robbery of a right baptism of Christ."

B. Don't you know that made the Catholics mad!

1. Hard to believe that a belief in Jesus would cause persecution. But it did!
2. There's more differences between Anabaptist and Catholics that led to persecution
 - a. Anabaptist believe in a literal interpretation of the NT (esp. Sermon on Mount.
 - b.  Anabaptist **don't conform with the world, participate in love feast with feet washing, they lay on hands, anoint with oil, greet each other with a holy kiss, turn the other cheek, don't take oaths, repeated forgiveness, humility, non-violence, and sharing possessions.**
 - c. They **don't take their civil disputes to courts**. Paul wrote, "If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! **Therefore**, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, on brother takes another to court – and this in front of unbelievers! (1 Cor. 6: 1-11)"
 - d. Anabaptist don't believe in bearing arms or forcible resistance. Jesus, "**But I tell you, don't resist him who is evil; but whoever strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other cheek also.**" (Matt. 5:39)⁶
 - e. Anabaptist don't participate in government – it belongs to the world. Jesus, "**My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.**"
 - f. Anabaptists practiced **excommunication and exclusion**. Paul, "**Now I am writing to you that you must NOT associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, and idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even EAT with such people. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church. Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. Expel the wicked person from among you.**" (1 Cor. 5)

C. Anabaptist started in Zurich, Switzerland in 1525 when Conrad Grebel refused to baptize his infant daughter Rachel.

1. Then "radicals" met and started baptizing each other on Jan. 21, 1525
2. Confrontations and persecutions caused the Anabaptist to relocate – a lot!

II. The Mennonites were a splinter group from the general group of Anabaptist.

- A. Menno Simons was a prominent leader. Contemporary with Martin Luther.
 - * 1. Mennonite beliefs = Believer's baptism, washing of feet, anointing with oil, the holy kiss, shunning, non-swearing of oaths, marriage within the church, non-resistance, and generally obeying Jesus's teaching in the NT.
 - 2. Lots of persecution and moving to more tolerant states and countries.
 - 3. Generally known as a "peace church" committed to pacifism.
- B. Mennonites were forced out of their homes in the Netherlands, moved to North America in 1600's.
 - 1. William Penn gathered Quakers and Mennonites in Germany – let them to Germantown, Penn. In 1684.
 - * 2. They were **opposed to Revolutionary War, Public Education, and religious revivalism (they stayed within themselves).**
- C. Mennonites also split-up.
 - * 1. Older Order of Mennonites reject modern society.
 - a. **Plain clothes, keep out of society, prioritize community life, low-tech horse and buggy.**
 - 2. The more modern Conservative Mennonites: drive cars, use phones, have laptops, go to Sunday School, hold revivals, own and operate private schools.

III. There is a connection between Quakers and Mennonites

- A. Quakers belong to the **Religious Society of Friends**.
 - 1. NOT named after Mr. Quake. George Fox told a judge, "quake before the authority of God. George Fox believed that it was possible to have direct experience with Christ **WITHOUT** the aid of ordained clergy. *Blasphemy! Blasphemy!*
- B. So, they moved to America.
 - 1. Early missionaries were persecuted in America.
- C. Theologically speaking – Quakers' beliefs vary among each other – tolerance.
 - * 1. They focus on **FEELING** the presence of God and Jesus.
 - 2. They reject the idea of professional priests. Instead, **priesthood of believers.**
 - 3. **SPICES** (simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, stewardship) (no drugs or alcohol, peace-loving, non-abortion, adoptions, women equal to men – you know what I mean)
 - 4. Quaker church services look similar to other Protestant services.
 - 5. Quakers are diversified – same-sex marriages, homosexuality, even identifying with other faiths.
- D. But, how about that Friendswood, Texas!!!!

IV. Amish are soooooo interesting.

- A. They are also a traditional Anabaptist fellowship – from Switzerland.
 - 1. Closely related to Mennonites.
 - 2. Led by Jakob Ammann – Get it? Amish!
 - * a. Fallen believers banned from communion AND common meals – shunned!
 - B. Migrated in the 1700 to Pennsylvania for religious freedom and cheap land.
 - 1. Their first "split" came from **modernization.**
 - C. 20th Century brought major changes to the Amish.
 - * 1. World Wars, Automobiles, Public Education
 - D. 2 major concepts in Amish religion – rejecting Pride, embracing Humility and Calmness
- One of the common issues in the study of Anabaptists, Quakers, Mennonites, Amish and others is persecution. This week we celebrate a country that offered religious freedom. God Bless Americap