

History

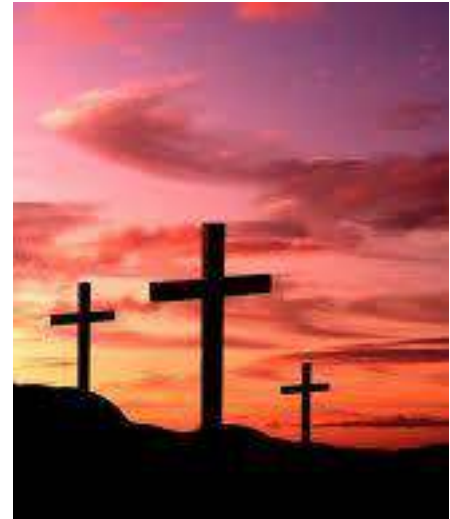
CHRISTIAN LIFE IN THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

A few topics to discuss:

- ◉ Spiritual Power of Christianity
- ◉ Christianity and the Individual
- ◉ Christianity and Women
- ◉ Christianity and Marriage
- ◉ Christianity and Society
- ◉ Spiritual Gifts of Christianity
- ◉ Service in Christianity

The Spiritual Power of Christianity

- Different from what came before
- Life of holiness, peace, and communion with God
- Continued to the maximum resurrection
- Best possible relationship between God and man
- No philosophy could renew and conquer the world as the Christianity did and is still doing by the Holy Gospel



The individual

- ◉ Change life usually starts internally → in the heart
- ◉ Renewal toward the perfection
- ◉ Daily communion with the Lord Jesus Christ
- ◉ Role models for virtues which were not know before
 - ◉ Meekness
 - ◉ Humility
 - ◉ Love of one's enemies
- ◉ Light and salt for the world → showing His light
- ◉ Non-written Gospel or you can say a living Gospel!



Women

- ◉ Christianity honored women → unlike Judaism and paganism
- ◉ Woman inherited salvation just as men (1 Peter 3:7 and Galatians 3:28)
- ◉ Virgin St. Mary is the point of change in woman's history
 - ◉ Attributed to her giving birth to Jesus Christ → 2nd Adam
- ◉ Gospel presented many women with holy lives:
 - ◉ Mary Magdalene
 - ◉ Salome, the mother of James and John
 - ◉ Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters
 - ◉ St. Mary the mother of St. Mark the Apostle (Acts 12:12) → Upper Room during the Last Supper and the Pentecost
 - ◉ those who followed the Lord Jesus Christ to the Holy Cross (Luke 24:1-10)

Marriage

- ◉ Divine Sacrament → not human development (Matthew 19:4-6)
- ◉ Monogamy the Godly ideal → rejects polygamy
- ◉ Each member had responsibilities and rights
- ◉ Man-woman union = Christ-Church union (Ephesians 5:28-33)
- ◉ Aquila and Priscilla were good examples (Acts 18:2, 26)
 - ◉ Helped St. Paul's ministry and home became a church
- ◉ Children-parent relationship agape love → not authority or violence like Romans
- ◉ Church prohibited divorce except for marital immorality

Marriage

- One of the issues → mixed marriage
- 1 partner being Christian and the other being Jew or pagan
- Christian partner might think their marriage wasn't holy according to the Bible
- However, the Church allowed it and considered it holy
- BUT the same time it was not allowed for any Christians to initiate a mixed marriage
- Excommunicated any Christian who began a new mixed marriage
 - (1 Corinthians 7:12-14, 7:39 and 1 Peter 3:1)

Marriage

- ◉ With the married state, **The single** also as an exception to the rule is considered by the Gospel to the service of the Kingdom of God.
- ◉ St. Paul praised the life of virginity (1 Corinthians 7:1-38)
- ◉ Examples: St. John the Baptist , Apostle John, Apostle Paul and Barnabas.
- ◉ Reasons:
 - ◉ St. John revealed about the rank of the virgin in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 14:1-5)
 - ◉ Virgins to sit in the first rows in the Church before other believers

Society

- Christianity called for Agape love for all people
- Regardless of geographical or physical boundaries
- Removing the barriers between different races Jews, Romans, Gentiles, Greeks, and Barbarians as all nations are created from one (Acts 17:26)
- Universal spirit so all believers are one heart and one soul (Acts 4:32)



Spiritual Gifts

- The spiritual gifts in the Church during the Apostolic Age (1 Corinthians 12-14) included the following:
 - Wisdom and Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:4-9)
 - Teaching (Romans 12:7)
 - Prophecy (Romans 12:6, Acts 11:27-28; 13:1-2 and 1 Timothy 4:14)
 - Tongues (Acts 2:1-13; 10:46; 19:6 and 1 Corinthians 14:20-25)
 - Interpretation (1 Corinthians 12:4-10)
 - Administration (1 Corinthians 12:28)
 - Pasturing (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - Miracles (Hebrews 2:4, 1 Corinthians 12:10)



Servants

- Categories of servants in the church during Apostolic Age included:
 - The Apostles (2 Corinthians 8:23; Philippians 2:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:6; and Galatians 4:14-15)
 - Prophets (Acts 13:1; 15:32; 21:9)
 - Teachers (Romans 12:6-7)
 - Bishops (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-4)
 - Priests / Presbyters (Elders) (Acts 14:23; 20:17; 11:30; 15:4,23; 16:4; 21:18; 1 Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:5; and James 5:14)
 - Deacons (Acts 6:1-8 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13)
 - Women servants/Deacons (Acts 9:36 ; Philippians 4:2&3 ; Romans 16:1-12 ; and 1 Timothy 3:11)