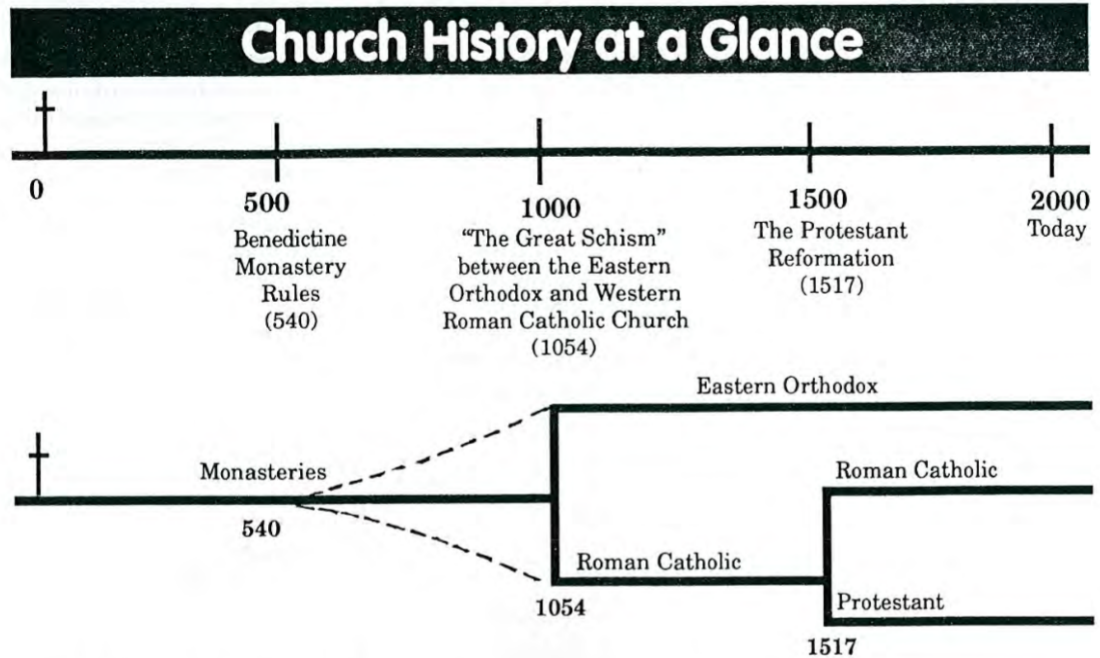


## A History of Church History

David DeWitt



Above is a simple graph of what happened at each of the 500s of Christian history. The major events were the two splits—one in 1054 and the other in 1517, giving us three basic groups of Christians today.

Below is the author's subjective evaluation of the quality of Christianity after the first century. Quality is here defined as (1) scholarly work that helped us understand the Bible better, (2) impact on the non-Christian world, and (3) close adherence to Christian morals. This is the heavy dark line. Also, superimposed over the dark line is a dotted line that represents the power of the clergy and a dashed line representing the availability of the Bible to the people.

Also, we should observe that two great pivotal changes hit Christianity about the year 1800. (1) The Industrial Revolution gave the church something it never had to deal with before—rapid change. (2) After 1800 it became a multiracial, multi-cultural religion without a European center.

Finally, it is the author's opinion that the qualitative ups and downs of Christianity are increasing. The current downtrend is due to tolerance of a wide range of moral and doctrinal beliefs forbidden by the Bible (1 Corinthians 1:10). This results in, for example, tolerance of a divorce rate equal with the world (Malachi 2:16), tolerance of homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9), and tolerance of a weak view of Scripture (1 Peter 1:20).

