

# Christianity

Introduction

# Catholicism

- ▶ Doctrine:
  - God in three persons as a mystic experience (Trinity)
  - Church: community, tradition, the truth
  - I Vatican Council (1870): papal infallibility

# Seven sacraments

- ▶ (infant) Baptism
- ▶ The Eucharist (1 –the Eucharistic Sacrifice, 2– initiation into the Christian community); a crucial element of: *adoration, thanksgiving, penance*
- ▶ Confirmation
- ▶ Penance
- ▶ Anointing of the sick
- ▶ Holy Orders
- ▶ Marriage (main goal: procreation)

# Catholicism

- ▶ Hell
- ▶ Heaven
- ▶ And: **Purgatory**


# Orthodoxy

- ▶ 1054– split (dogma, power, visions of the church and liturgy)
- ▶ Western Christianity: theological reasoning, morality, catechism, further definitions
- ▶ Eastern Christianity: mysticism, theology, philosophy, meditation

# Orthodoxy

- ▶ Singing (but no music)
- ▶ Icons (but statues are not worshipped)
- ▶ Salvation: only in the Church (community)

# Seven sacraments

- ▶ Baptism: immersion in water
  - ▶ The Eucharist (1 –the Eucharistic Sacrifice, 2– initiation into the Christian community)
  - ▶ Confirmation (& baptism)
  - ▶ Penance
  - ▶ Anointing of the sick
  - ▶ Holy Orders
  - ▶ Marriage (divorce: in cases of adultery)
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# Protestantism

- ▶ Reformation: against indulgence, the Church's economic power and aspirations, moral decline; 1517 – Martin Luter's 95 theses
- ▶ Salvation through faith (and not the church)
- ▶ Against the prime role of the pope
- ▶ Against the Church's interpretation of the Bible, the hierarchy
- ▶ 1555– peace of Augsburg: cuius regio, eius religio
- ▶ Universal priesthood (NT)



# Lutheranism (16th Century)

- ▶ 2 sacraments: Baptism and Lord's Supper (to remember God's sacrifice)
- ▶ Marriage is not a sacrament
- ▶ God is present everywhere
- ▶ Horizontal structure (not everywhere – see Scandinavian churches)
- ▶ No individual confessions
- ▶ No cult of the saints
- ▶ singing, praying, reading (interpretation of the Bible), sermons (preaching)


# Calvinism (16th Century)

- ▶ John Calvin
- ▶ Salvation through real faith
- ▶ lay people/clerics – equal position
- ▶ Church buildings– to gather the believers, no sacred meaning
- ▶ Against the church tradition
- ▶ Moral radicalism
- ▶ The doctrine of predestination: human activity aimed to prove God's will
- ▶ Ascetism, pure form


# Biomedical/moral issues

- ▶ Abortion (Pr: mother's life!)
- ▶ Euthanasia
- ▶ Contraception (CC, Orth: marriage → procreation; Prot: sex – also love and pleasure); ban on condoms (interpretation: OT)– with some exceptions
- ▶ Prohibition of surrogacy
- ▶ Prohibit against homosexual marriages
- ▶ In-vitro

# Biomedical issues

- ▶ Adoption
  - ▶ Transplantation (with respect to human body), no risk to someone's health or life
  - ▶ Cloning and stem-cell research
  - ▶ Medical experiments
  - ▶ Blood transfusion
  - ▶ Cremation
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# Anglican Church (16th Century)

- ▶ The Bible + the tradition
  - ▶ Church's authority
  - ▶ 2 basic sacraments: Baptism, the Eucharist
  - ▶ But also: Holy Orders, Marriage, Anointing of the sick
  - ▶ The King/Queen: the head of the church
  - ▶ Episcopal structure
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# Baptists (16/17th Century)

- ▶ Believer's baptism (not: infant baptism) through immersion in water
- ▶ The role of the Bible
- ▶ Individual faith, reading of the Bible
- ▶ Trinity
- ▶ Jesus as the head of the Church
- ▶ Universal priesthood
- ▶ Structure: congregations
- ▶ Separation of church and state
- ▶ Religious tolerance

# Methodism (18th Century)

- ▶ Moral radicalism
  - ▶ Proselytism, mission of evangelisation, missionary activity
  - ▶ Salvation through faith
  - ▶ God's love
  - ▶ Modest life, work
  - ▶ Sophisticated form of sermons, rich musical tradition, preachers
  - ▶ Initially: religion of the lower class
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