

## How Old is Your Church?

If you are a **Lutheran**, your religion was founded by Martin Luther, an ex-monk of the Catholic Church, in the year 1517 and now has many divisions.

If you belong to the **Church of England**, your religion was founded by King Henry VIII in the year 1534 because the Pope would not grant him a divorce with the right to re-marry. Queen Elizabeth is now the head of this church.

If you are a **Presbyterian**, your religion was founded by John Knox in Scotland in the year 1560.

If you are a **Protestant Episcopalian**, your religion was an offshoot of the Church of England, founded by Samuel Seabury in the American colonies in the 17th century.

If you are a **Congregationalist**, your religion was originated by Robert Brown in Holland in 1582 and consider the church a democracy.

If you are a **Methodist**, your religion was launched by John and Charles Wesley in England in 1744. By the way, they believed in the need for holiness and believed in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

If you are **Unitarian**, Theophilus Lindley founded your church in London in 1774 and today more than half of them are atheists.

If you are a **Mormon** (Latter Day Saints), Joseph Smith started your religion in Palmyra, N. Y., in 1829 after allegedly discovering golden plates. Mormons also deny the deity of Christ and the Trinity.

If you are a **Baptist**, you owe the tenets of your religion to John Smyth, who launched it in Amsterdam in 1606. You are now divided into thousands of sects.

If you are of the **Dutch Reformed** church, you recognize Michaelis Jones as founder, because he originated your religion in New York in 1628.

If you worship with the **Salvation Army**, your sect began with William Booth in London in 1865 and you deny the sacraments.

If you are a **Christian Scientist**, you look to 1879 as the year in which your religion was born and to Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy as its founder.

If you belong to one of the religious organizations known as "Church of the Nazarene", "Pentecostal Gospel", "Holiness Church", "Pilgrim Holiness Church", "Jehovah's Witnesses", your religion is one of the hundreds of new sects founded by men within the past hundred years.

If you are a **Roman Catholic**, you know that your religion was founded in the year 33 by Jesus Christ the Son of God, and that it's line of Popes can be traced back to Peter himself. The Papacy is the longest existing office in the world and the Catholic Church is now over 1 billion strong.

According to the Oxford University *World Christian Encyclopedia* there are now (as of 2000) 33,820 denominations and para-denominations worldwide. Did Jesus intend there to be 33,820 competing and contradicting Christian denominations? Please read John 17 where Jesus prayed for the Church to be one as he was one with his Father – that they would be perfected in unity. I am very pleased to have discovered and joined the Catholic Church.