

Who started your Church?
Lets look @ history & the process of Elimination
Date, Origin, Founders of various churches

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>FOUNDER(S)</u>	<u>ORIGIN</u>
ORTHODOX CHURCH	1054 (Britannica)	Patriarch Bishop Photius	Middle East National Churches Went into Schism (formal division)
LUTHERAN	1517 (Britannica)	Martin Luther (at least 20 groups)	Germany
ZWINGLIANS	1520's (Britannica)	Ulrich Zwingli	Switzerland
ANGLICAN	1534 (Britannica)	King Henry VIII	England
CALVINIST	1555 (Britannica)	John Calvin	Switzerland
PRESBYTERIAN	1560 (Britannica)	John Knox (at least 10 groups)	Scotland
CONGREGATIONALIST	1582 (Britannica)	Robert Brown	England
BAPTIST	1605 (Britannica)	John Smith (at least 23 branches)	Netherlands
DUTCH REFORMED	1628 (Britannica)	Michaelis Jones	New York
QUAKERS	1647 (H.of D. p.265)	George Fox	England
METHODIST	1739 (Britannica)	John & Charles Wesley (at least 19 groups)	London
UNITARIAN	1774 (Wikipedia)	Theophilus Lindley	London
EPISCOPALIAN	1789 (Britannica)	Samuel Seabury	Philadelphia
UNITED BRETHREN	1800 (H.of D p.205)	Philip Otterbein & Martin Boehm	Maryland
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST	1848 (Britannica)	Thomas & Alexander Campbell	Kentucky
PLYMOUTH BRETHREN	1829 (H.of D. p.244-6)	John Nelson Derby (at least 8 groups)	England
ADVENTIST	1830 (Adventist.org)	William Miller (at least 4 Branches)	New Hampshire
MORMONS (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)	1830 (H.of D. p.165)	Joseph Smith (at least 7 branches)	New York
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST	1860 (H.of D. p.38)	Ellen Gould White	Michigan
SALVATION ARMY	1865 (H.of D. p.275)	William Booth	London
JEHOVAHS WITNESSES	1874 (Britannica)	Charles Taze Russell	Pennsylvania
CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST	1879 (Britannica)	Mary Baker Eddy	Massachusetts
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA	1896 (Britannica)	Ballington Booth	New York
FUNDAMENTALIST	1910-15 (Wikipedia)	Milton & Lyman Stewart	Niagara, Ontario
IGLESIA NI CRISTO	1914 (Britannica)	Felix Manolo	Philippines
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	1914 (Britannica)	Founded by 'Revivalist' Leaders	Arkansas
PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES	1916 (H.of D.p.240-1)	Leaders broke off of the 'Assemblies of God'	Indianapolis
LA LUZ DEL MUNDO	1926 (Wikipedia)	Aaron Joaquin Flores	Guadalajara, Mexico
FOUR-SQUARE GOSPEL	1927 (Britannica)	Aimee Semple McPherson	Los Angeles
THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH OF GOD	1934 (Britannica)	Herbert W. Armstrong	Oregon
CHURCH of SCIENTOLOGY	1952 (Wikipedia)	L. Ron Hubbard	Washington D.C.

CALVARY CHAPEL	1965 (Wikipedia)	Chuck Smith	Costa Mesa, CA
VICTORY OUTREACH	1967(victoryoutreach.org)	Sonny Arguinzoni	Los Angeles, CA
VINEYARD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	1975 (Wikipedia)	Ken Gullickson	Beverly Hills, CA
PRAISE CHAPEL	1975 (Wikipedia)	Mike & Donna Neville	Maywood, CA
IGLESIA UNIVERSAL	1977 (Wikipedia)	Edir M. Bezerra	Rio de Janero, Brazil
BOSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST	1979 (Wikipedia)	Thomas Kip McKean	Boston Massachusetts
HARVEST CHRISTIAN	1979 (Wikipedia)	Greg Laurie	Riverside, CA
SADDLE CHURCH	1980 (Wikipedia)	Rick Warren	Lake Forest, CA
(Roman) CATHOLIC CHURCH	33 (Britannica)	JESUS CHRIST	JERUSALEM

SOURCES

1. Britannica Encyclopedia online
2. Wikipedia online Encyclopedia
3. F. Mead & S. Hill. *Handbook of Denominations*. 10. Nashville Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 1985.

World English Dictionary

Denomination

- 1.a group having a distinctive interpretation of a religious faith and usually its own organization
- 2.a grade or unit in a series of designations of value, weight, measure, etc: *coins of this denomination are being withdrawn*
- 3.a name given to a class or group; classification
- 4.the act of giving a name
- 5.a name; designation

By Jesse Romero M.A. (Catholic Evangelist, Apologist, Author)

The Catholic Church is the original. Protestants are like Xerox copies; each successive Xerox copy gets weaker, lighter and loses some clarity.

If you are a member of a (Christian or Pseudo-Christian) Religious organization not mentioned here. Your church (with its distinctive beliefs) is one of the hundreds of new sects founded by men during the 20th Century. The Encyclopedia of Christian Churches now list over 38,000 protestant (non-Catholic) Christian churches, groups, or organizations. For additional information see 'HANDBOOK OF DENOMINATIONS' by Frank Mead & Samuel Hill or http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_denominations or www.britannica.com.

Division, denominationalism, schism, "that's another important problem that we want to give attention to and hopefully others as well. American evangelicals have become very individualistic in their faith and have increasingly forgotten the importance of the organized body of Christ. In doing so, they have lost touch with Christian tradition and seem to think that Christianity is only a personal relationship between Christ and themselves. However, the Scriptures, not to mention Christian tradition, argue that Christians do not stand alone, but stands within the larger body of Christ. Christians must always be mindful of that" (A Voice for Orthodoxy in the Mainlines by Rusty Benson; AFA Journal August 2009, p.13).

Why do Catholics believe that their Church is the one true Church of Jesus Christ? Wouldn't it be more reasonable to believe that Christ's true Church is a spiritual union of all Christian denominations?

Catholics believe that theirs is the one true Church of Jesus Christ, firstly, because theirs is the only Christian Church that goes back in history to the time of Christ; secondly, because theirs is the only Christian Church which possesses the invincible unity, the intrinsic holiness, the continual universality and the indisputable apostolicity which Christ said would distinguish His true Church; and thirdly, because the Apostles and early Church Fathers, who certainly were members of Christ's true Church, all professed membership in this same Catholic Church (See Apostles' Creed and the early Christian letters). Wrote Ignatius of Antioch [107 AD], illustrious early Church Father of the first century: "Where the Bishop is, there let the multitude of believers be; even as where Jesus is, there is the Catholic Church." Our Lord said: "There shall be one fold and one shepherd," [John 10: 16] yet it is well known that the various Christian denominations cannot agree on what Christ actually taught. The Church is a household (1 Tim 3:15) and Christ roundly condemned denominationalism when he said, "And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand" (Mark 3:25). Christ prayed for unity (John 17:20-23) and Catholics cannot believe that He would ever sanction division in 'his body' which is the Church (1 Corinthians 12:12). Denominations are a scandal to Christianity and are a stumbling block to world evangelism. In fact, this is what Muslims says about the division in Christianity, "[Koran 23.53] "But they cut off their religion among themselves into sects, each part rejoicing in that which is with them." The divisions in Christianity make it difficult for other world religions to take Christianity seriously, because we are "a house divided" (cf. Mark 3:25).

The Vatican is the oldest continuous organization on earth, built literally on the tomb of St. Peter the apostle. Over the centuries it has witnessed the rise and fall of empires, philosophies, and scientific theories – and yet it still remains on the same spot, proclaiming the same gospel.

- The Lord also promises in Matthew 16: 18 – the gates of hell shall not prevail (against the Church).
- The promises of Jesus to not return void, his promises accomplish his purposes. For as the Lord says in Isaiah 55: 11 "so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it."
- The Holy Spirit (3rd person of the Trinity) has been here to guide us since the day of Pentecost. As Christians, we believe that all of these promises are true, therefore, there could never been a total apostasy in the early Church. Because to say that there was a total apostasy makes Jesus Christ a liar and no Christian even wants to entertain

that idea for a second. The second (erroneous) implication is that the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and stayed until they all passed away. Then took a nap for about 1500 to 1600 years and suddenly woke up and said OOPS, I need to fix the Church, and then gave us the Protestant Reformation.

To say that there was an apostasy in the early Church implies:

- 1) Jesus is a liar and couldn't keep his promise.
- 2) The Holy Spirit fell asleep
- 3) God is not all-powerful, because the gates of hell prevailed against the Church.

All three views are sacrilegious. We Catholics believe that the Holy Spirit has been with the Church uninterrupted and perpetually since 33 A.D. and therefore we still have and will always have until the end of time, the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. 'Christendom' means Christ Kingdom - that is the Church.

In short, the Catholic Church has been under the same management for about 2,000 years and the founder is Christ himself.

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