

What's the Difference?

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 1:3

	Baptist	Catholic	Greek Orthodox	Lutheran	Presbyterian	Anglican/ Episcopal	Methodist/ Wesleyan
Date Founded as Distinct Denomination	c. 33 AD	C. 400 AD	1054 (The Great Schism)	1530 Augsburg Confession	c. 1560	1534 Henry VIII Act of Supremacy	1787
Where Founded	Jerusalem/Antioch	Rome	Constantinople	Germany	Switzerland/ Scotland	England	England
Founders	Jesus and the Apostles	<u>Claim</u> Peter <u>Actually</u> Eusebius, Constantine Augustine	Michael Cerularius	Martin Luther Phillip Melanchthon	Ulrich Zwingli John Calvin Theodore Beza John Knox	Henry VIII Elizabeth I T. Cromwell T. Cranmer Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley	John Wesley
Worship Guide	Bible	Roman Missal		Book of Concord	Directory for Worship	Book of Common Prayer	Book of Discipline
Church Polity	Pastor Lead Congregational	Episcopal	Episcopal	Episcopal	Presbyterian	Episcopal	Connexionism: "all leaders and congregations are connected in a network of loyalties and commitments that support, yet supersede, local concerns."
Creeds/ Confessions	New Testament (Anti-Creedalist)	Apostles Creed Nicene Creed 2nd Catechism	Nicene Creed	Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed, Augsburg Confession, Formula of Concord	Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, Westminster Confession	Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed,	Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed,

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Sacred Text	Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments	Holy Bible (Old Testament, New Testament, and Apocrypha)	Holy Bible (Old Testament, New Testament, and Apocrypha)	Holy Bible (Old Testament and New Testament only). Apocrypha "useful" for reading and can help to increase one's faith. (ELCA)	Holy Bible (Old Testament, New Testament)	Holy Bible (Old Testament and New Testament only). Apocrypha used for edification (Art. 7). Tradition & reason assist interpretation (ECUSA)	Holy Bible (Old Testament, New Testament)
Inspiration and Inerrancy of Scripture	Verbal, Plenary Inspiration. Absolutely Inerrant	"The books of Scripture firmly, faithfully, and without error teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures." (Catechism, 2nd ed.)	"God's inspiration is confined to the original languages and utterances, not the many translations." (GOAA) "While the Bible is treasured as a valuable written record of God's revelation, it does not contain wholly that revelation." (GOAA)	Inspired and inerrant. (LCMS) Inspired but not inerrant. (ELCA)	The Bible is inspired. "For some, that means the Bible is inerrant. For others, it means that even though the Bible is culturally conditioned and not necessarily factual or even always true, it breathes with the life of God." (PCUSA)	The OT and NT contain all things necessary for salvation. (CofE)	Inspired and inerrant in original manuscripts, "and have been transmitted to the present without corruption of any essential doctrine." (WC)
Sources of Doctrine	The Bible as our Sole Authority	Bible, church fathers, popes, bishops; Seven Ecumenical Councils; Trent, Vatican, and other Catholic councils	"The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, along with Sacred Apostolic Tradition." Seven Ecumenical Councils. (GOAA)	Bible alone	"Our standards of belief are to be found in the Bible and in the Church's historic Confession of Faith." (CofS)	"The Scriptures and the Gospels, the Apostolic Church and the early Church Fathers, are the foundation of Anglican faith and worship.	"The Holy Scripture contains all things necessary to salvation." (UMC)

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Salvation	Salvation is by Grace Through Faith Alone	Received at baptism; may be lost by mortal sin; regained by penance	"The acceptance of Christ as the Savior through confession in Christ as the True God is the highest gift given to the believer by the Holy Spirit....acceptance is his own choice through his own free will. This is why one is responsible for his own fate." (GOAA)	"Faith in Christ is the only way for men to obtain personal reconciliation with God, that is, forgiveness of sins" (LCMS)	"We are able to choose God because God first chose us." (PCUSA)	"We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by Faith, and not for our own works or deserving." (Art. XI)	"We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works." (UMC)
Eternal Hell	Affirmed	Affirmed. "The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God." (Catech 1030)	Affirmed	Affirmed	Affirmed by some. "In a 1996 Presbyterian Panel survey only 51 percent of members and 46 percent of pastors said they believed in hell." (PCUSA)	Affirmed	Affirmed. "Hell with its everlasting misery and separation from God is the final abode of those who neglect [God's] great salvation." (WC)

Adapted from The Big Religion Chart

