

# ***Christian Theology***

## Distinctions among Christians

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### ***The Restoration Movement: Christian Churches, Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ, and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)***

- This movement began on the American frontier in the early 1800s. It is sometimes known as the Stone- Campbell Movement.
- Both of these men had strong ties to the Presbyterian Church.
- Both men believed that the millennium was near.
- Stone's movement was based on the principle of Christian freedom.
  - It rejected the use of creeds, traditions, etc. and called for a restoration of the early/primitive church.
  - This led to a lack of dogma in the movement.
  - Stone believed that one should live as if the Kingdom was already established.
- Campbell's movement emphasized unity as a means to restoration.
  - Campbell and his followers were briefly connected with a Baptist group because of their views on believer's baptism.
  - It viewed humanity as being able to usher in the millennium.
  - Campbell believed that Christian unity could be achieved through finding "essentials" that agreed with human reason and the Bible.
- The two merged because of common interests in 1832, but the movement slowly began to splinter in the late 1800s.

<b>Name of Group</b>	Disciples of Christ / Christian Churches	Churches of Christ
<b>Emphasis</b>	<i>Unity</i>	<i>Restoration</i>
<b>General Location</b>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>
<b>General Structure</b>	<i>Denominational</i>	<i>Congregational</i>
<b>Theological Approach</b>	<i>Mainline</i>	<i>Literal Biblical Interpretation</i>

- The Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ developed in the 1900s. It broke away from the Disciples of Christ group because of three issues:
  - Theological modernism and liberalism
  - Ecumenical involvement, including the Federal Council of Churches (1908)
  - Open membership (not requiring baptism)
- This final group is non-denominational – or even anti-denominational.