

Christian Theology
Distinctions among Christians
September 27, 2009

Where We Stand

We have spent the past several months investigating various church groups, from Lutherans and Anglicans to Free Methodists and "Church of God-ers" (which is not, by the way, a technical term!). All along, our goals have been to do the following:

- a) understand our own tradition more clearly,
- b) appreciate the diversity within our own congregation, and
- c) value the beliefs and practices of other Christian groups, if and when appropriate.

Today, in the absence of your esteemed teacher/facilitator, you have the following assignment:

- Break into groups of 3 or 4 people. In 10 minutes, come up with specific, written answers to these questions, as best as you can:
 - What are the most important theological convictions of us here at Woodruff Place?
 - In what ways is this a Baptist congregation? What makes this a Baptist congregation?
- Come back together as one group and share your answers for 10 more minutes.

- As a full group, discuss these questions for 10 minutes.
 - We have come together from a variety of denominational backgrounds. How have those backgrounds strengthened our fellowship and mission? How can they? Be specific.
 - How have our differing backgrounds proved to be an obstacle to our fellowship and mission? How might they? Answer this without being critical of any individuals.

- In whatever time remains, discuss this topic as a full group. Please have someone write down a summary of your discussion.
 - Some have said that present-day inner-city Christianity is becoming a sort of denomination. What are the theological convictions and characteristics of this new movement? How is this movement similar to and yet different from the historical movements we have been studying?