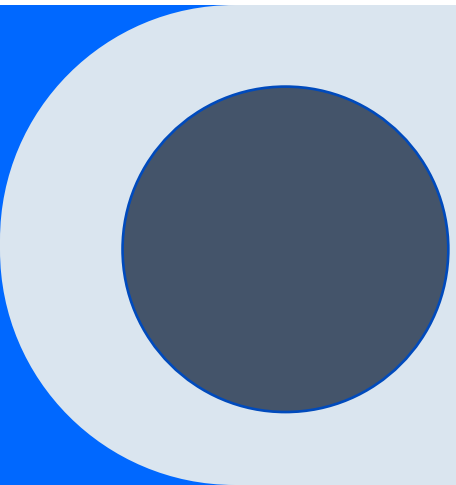
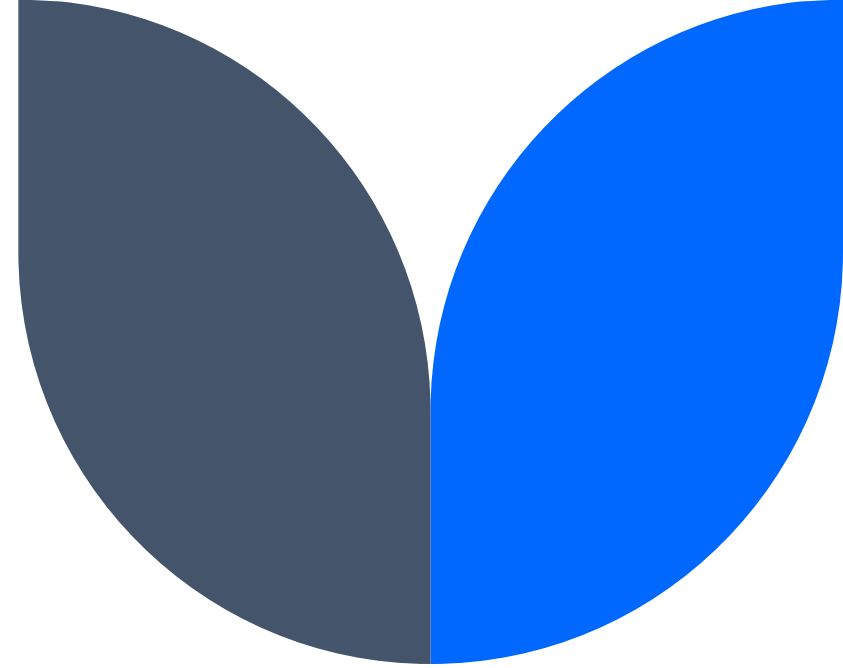




# Seeking Undenominational Christianity

Tom Rucker – Hardin Valley Church





# Seeking Undenominational Christianity

## The Long and Winding Road-Part 5



## 1 Peter 5:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your **adversary** the **devil** prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

## Romans 15:5-7

<sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such **harmony** with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with **one voice** glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore **welcome one another** as Christ has welcomed you, **for the glory of God.**



# Roman Reaction to Reformation



- Paul III became pope in 1534
  - Undertook the task of reforming the Catholic Church to address criticisms to withstand the Protestant attacks.
  - He formed a council in Trent in 1545-1563 to formulate a reply:
    - Tradition is of equal authority with Scripture
    - The Latin Vulgate of Jerome was accepted as authoritative text of the Bible.
    - Interpretation of Scripture is given authoritatively by the church and not individual.
    - Justification comes by both faith and good works.
    - Seven sacraments of the Catholic church reassessed as valid; emphasizing Mass, miracle of transubstantiation, and the priesthood.
    - Indulgences were valid but should be given based on meritorious service, **not sold**.
    - Reaffirmed the existence of purgatory.
    - Images were to be used as aids but **not worshiped**.
    - Invoking and mediation of the saints affirmed.
    - The council gained no authority over the pope.

# Religious Wars

- The treaty of Augsburg in 1555 did not end the armed conflict between Catholics and Protestants.
  - In 1618 in Germany, the 30-year war arose after Catholics demanded the restoration of all church property confiscated by the Protestants since 1555. A peace treaty was signed in Westphalia in 1620 that almost duplicated the terms of the Augsburg treaty.
  - From 1562 to 1598, there were eight civil wars between Huguenots and Catholics in France. In 1598, King Henry IV of France issued an edict granting religious toleration – under certain restrictions.
  - When Philip II of Spain became ruler of the Netherlands in 1555, he determined to force Catholicism on the Netherlands. William of Orange organized a league to defend Protestants. After years of conflict, the country was split into Protestant Holland in the north and Catholic Belgium in the south.

# Discussion

- Why did efforts to reform the Catholic church fail?
- Are there some things that we can agree with the Roman Catholic church's position and work together with them to promote in the world?

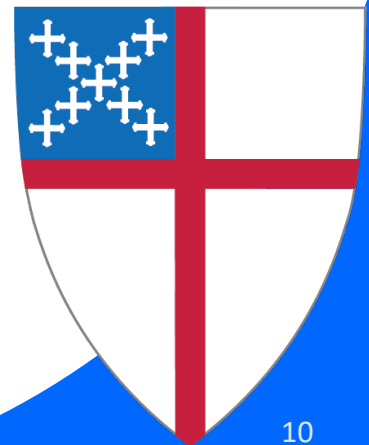
# Denominationalism Transferred to America

- Roman Catholicism
  - By 1510, Jesuit priests brought to Mexico and the West Indies.
  - By 1565, it came with the Spanish to North America at St. Augustine,
  - In 1634, George Calvert founded Maryland as a refuge for English Catholics who wanted to come to America. However, the majority of the settlers were Protestant. Therefore, in 1649 the “Toleration Act” was passed granting religious toleration. By 1692, the Church of England was accepted as the established church in Maryland.



# Denominationalism Transferred to America

- Church of England
  - In 1607, Jamestown was established by English Cavaliers who were all members of the Church of England. William and Mary College was established in 1693 to train ministers.
  - After the colonies broke with England, many who had been Anglicans took the name **Episcopalian** and established the **Episcopal Church**. Their doctrine and organization, however, remained that of the Church of England.
  - The name Episcopal is taken from the Greek word *episkopos* meaning overseer; translated into Latin as *Biscopo*, then Bishop.
  - The Church of England remained the established church in Virginia until late eighteenth century.
  - North and South Carolina also became exclusively Anglican.



# Denominationalism Transferred to America

- Puritans, Separatists, Congregationalists
  - Differences in England between Separatists and Puritans were forgotten in the New World.
  - Starting in Plymouth in 1620, they grew and by 1640 there were 31 strong churches in New England.
  - Old forms and ceremonies were cast off. The Bible was taken as a code of laws, but interpretation of doubtful passages were not left to the individual.
  - **Congregationalism** became practically a state religion.
  - After the Revolutionary War the Baptists, Quakers and Episcopalians procured a measure of religious toleration by opposing taxation of **Congregational churches**.



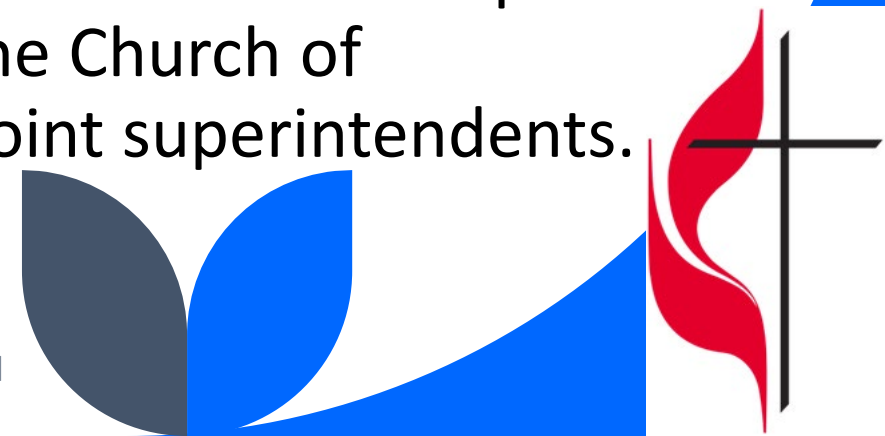
# Denominationalism Transferred to America

- Presbyterianism
  - The name “Presbyterian” is taken from the term “presbyter” which is the transliteration of the Greek word for elder – *Presbuteros*.
  - Designates that form of church government usually accompanied by predestination as taught by Calvin.
  - Entered the American colonies from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, Netherlands, and France.
  - At an early date, these elements combined to form the **Presbyterian Church in America**.
  - Attempts to unite with the Congregational proved mostly unsuccessful, but a small group called **United Brethren** grew out of the effort.
  - Nine major **branches** retain **Presbyterian** name.



# Denominationalism Transferred to America

- The Methodists
  - In America in the middle of Episcopal Churches, John and Charles Wesley and George Whitfield as well as others from Ireland preached throughout the colonies and established their “societies.”
  - These congregations depended on the Episcopal Church to ordain clergy. However, the Bishop of London refused to ordain them. Reluctantly, John Wesley ordained Thomas Coke and gave him authority to ordain others and instructed him to ordain Francis Asbury,
  - In December 1784, sixty lay preachers were present as Coke read a letter from Wesley stating that the churches in America were separated from any connection with the government or the Church of England and that Coke and Asbury were to be joint superintendents.
  - They adopted the name **Methodist Episcopal Church.**



# Denominationalism Transferred to America

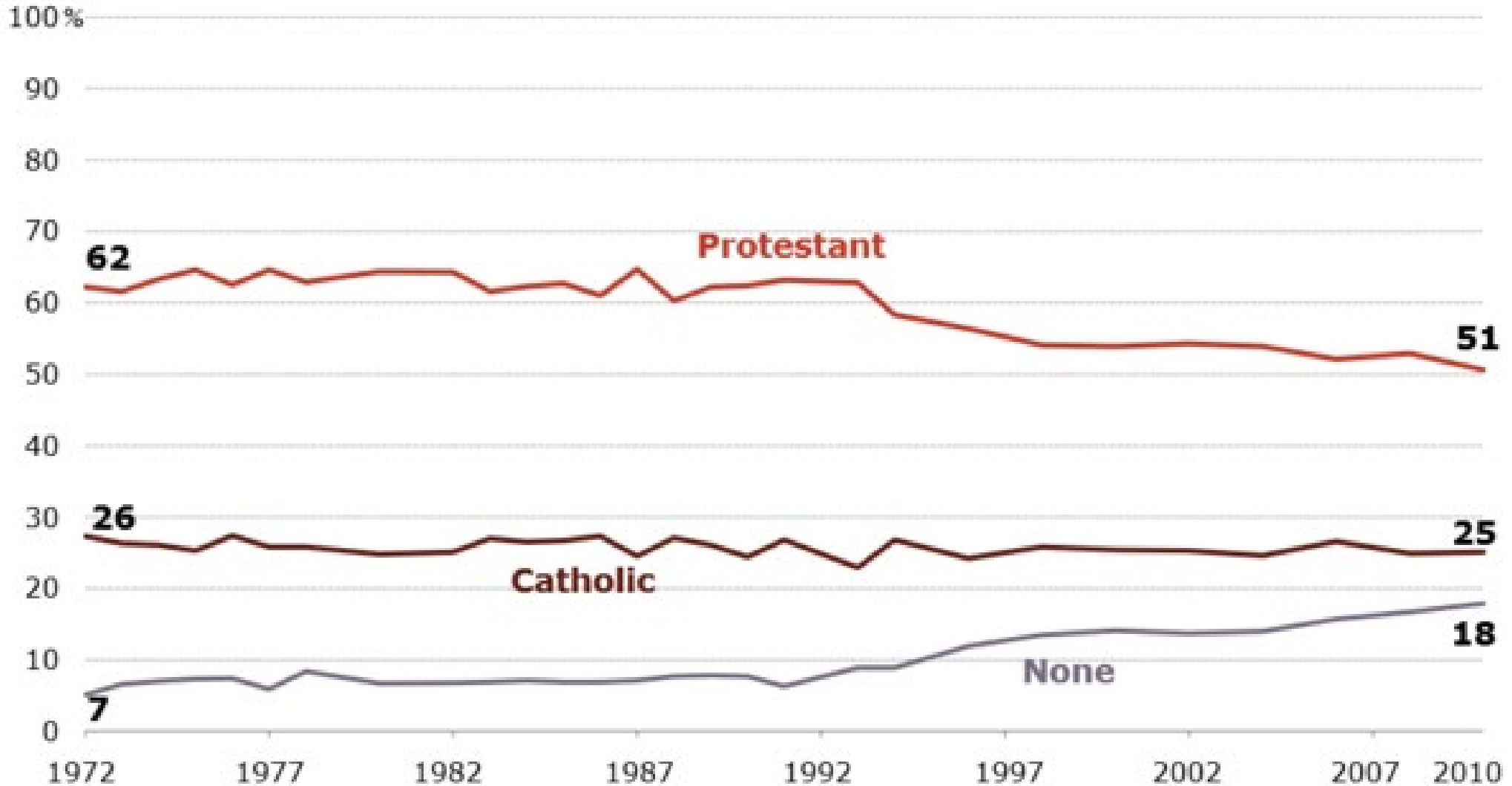
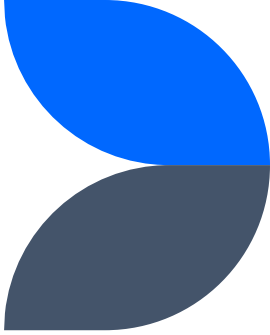
- The Baptists
  - Roger Williams was banned from the Massachusetts Colony because his religious views were in variance to those of the Congregationalist Church.
  - in 1639, he moved to Providence, Rhode Island where he began advocating Baptist views.
  - Here he baptized a fellow believer by affusion who then in turn baptized him. Then others were baptized at this time and became the first Baptist Church in America.
  - Apart from this effort, a church at Newport, RI about the same time who by 1644 adopted the practice of immersion. This soon became the adopted practice in most Baptist churches.
  - Soon many Baptist came to America from Europe. They disagreed among themselves on many points dividing into more than 20 major branches.



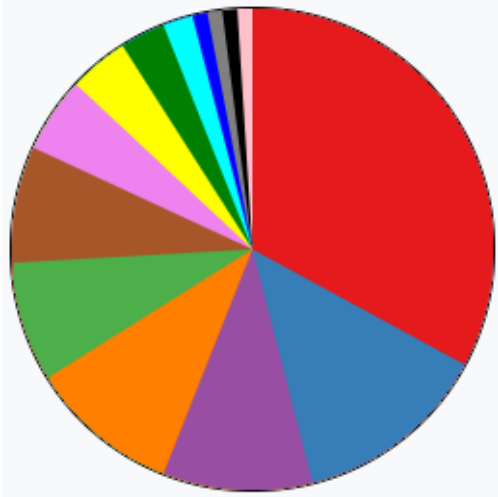
# Discussion

- Why were the denominations not able to unite in America?
- Why have there been so many splits and divisions within denominations.
- What can we learn from denominational history that we can apply as we seek to be undenominational?

# Three main religions in the US

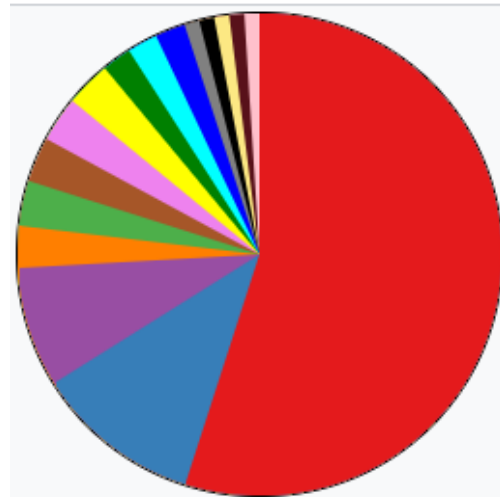


# Protestants in the United States - 2014



Protestants in the United States by branch according to the Pew Research Center (2014)<sup>[6]</sup>

- Baptist (33%)
- Nondenominational Protestant (13%)
- Methodist (10%)
- Pentecostal (10%)
- Unspecified Protestant (8%)
- Lutheran (8%)
- Presbyterian (5%)
- Restorationist (4%)
- Episcopalian/Anglican (3%)
- Holiness (2%)
- Congregationalist (1%)
- Adventist (1%)
- Anabaptist (1%)
- Other evangelical or fundamentalist, other Reformed, Pietist, Quaker (1%)



Protestants in the United States by denomination according to the Pew Research Center (2014)<sup>[6]</sup>

- Other denomination (55%)
- Southern Baptist Convention (11%)
- United Methodist Church (8%)
- American Baptist Churches USA (3%)
- Churches of Christ (3%)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (3%)
- National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (3%)
- Assemblies of God USA (3%)
- Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (2%)
- Presbyterian Church (USA) (2%)
- Episcopal Church (2%)

- Church of God in Christ (1%)
- Seventh-day Adventist Church (1%)
- United Church of Christ (1%)
- Presbyterian Church in America (1%)
- Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee) (1%)

