39. Timelines of the traditions

Each column follows one tradition through history; each row is an era. Before 1054 Catholics and Orthodox share one history, shown as a single wide column. Hover over any entry (or tap it on a phone) for details; click to keep the details open. On a phone, choose a tradition from the list to see its timeline as a single column.

Defined late, believed early. Many Catholic dogmas were formally defined long after the belief or practice first appears (for example, the Immaculate Conception in 1854 or papal infallibility in 1870). Dashed entries mark the **earlier evidence** for these later definitions; hover over a definition to see its earlier history, or over the dashed entry to see which definition it supports. Baptists generally read the same history as evidence of later development away from Scripture; Catholics read it as the Church defining what it had always believed.

Era	Catholic	Orthodox	Lutheran	Reformed	Anglican	Methodist	Anabaptist	Baptist
Apostolic age 30–100	**c. 30** Pentecost **c. 49** Council of Jerusalem **c. 96** 1 Clement		—	—	—	—	—	—
Persecuted church 100–312	**c. 50–120** The Didache **c. 110** Ignatius of Antioch **2nd c.** Protoevangelium of James **c. 155** Justin Martyr **c. 155** Martyrdom of Polycarp **c. 180** Irenaeus, Against Heresies **c. 190–203** Prayer for the dead **c. 200** Tertullian, On Baptism **c. 215** Apostolic Tradition **Apostolic Tradition, c. 215** Anointing after baptism and ordination rites **c. 240** Dura-Europos house church **c. 233–246** Origen **3rd c.** Remission of penance for the lapsed, at the martyrs' request **251–253** Cyprian of Carthage		—	—	—	—	—	**2nd–4th c.** Montanists, Novatianists, Donatists

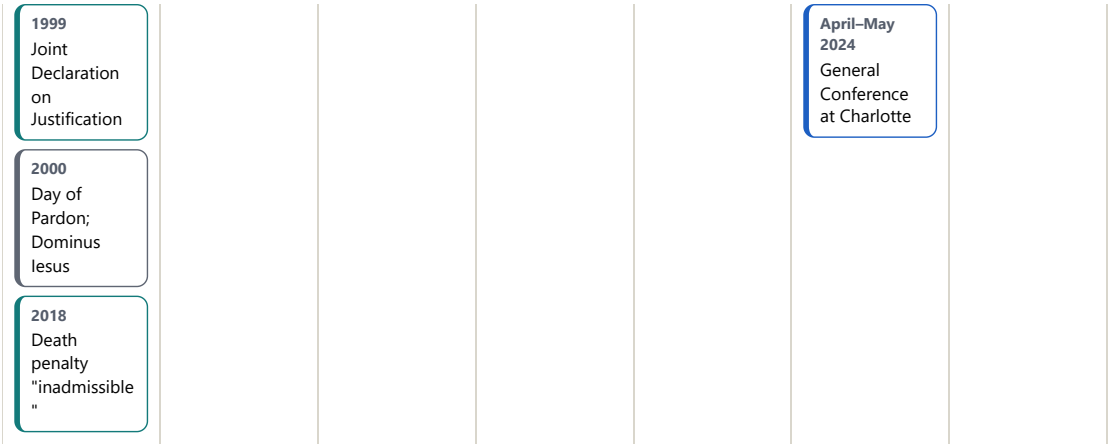
	3rd–9th c. Sub tuum praesidium **c. 305** Council of Elvira canon 33 requires continence of clergy						
Imperial church and the seven councils 313–787	**313** Edict of Milan **325** Council of Nicaea I **c. 350** Cyril of Jerusalem: do not judge by taste **c. 350** Cyril of Jerusalem's mystagogy **367** Athanasius' Festal Letter 39 **c. 370** Ephrem praises Mary as without stain **381** Council of Constantinople I **c. 390** Ambrose: the word of Christ changes the elements **393–419** Councils of Hippo and Carthage **416** Pope Innocent I on anointing the sick **c. 420** Augustine on purifying punishment after death **c. 420** Cassian on repeating a short prayer **c. 428** Augustine, On the Gift of Perseverance **431** Council of Ephesus **434** Vincent of Lérins, Commonitorium **5th c.** Dormition accounts circulate **451** Council of Chalcedon **519** Formula of Hormisdas: the faith kept unblemished in the Apostolic See **529** Council of Orange	—	**4th–5th c.** Aerius, Helvidius, Vigilantius	—	—	—	**7th–9th c.** Paulicians

	553 Council of Constantinople II **589** Third Council of Toledo (Spain) **c. 590** Gregory of Tours on the Assumption **c. 594** Gregory the Great on purgatorial fire **c. 600** Feast of the Dormition on August 15 across the Byzantine Empire **609/610** Pantheon becomes a church **680–681** Council of Constantinople III **726–787** Iconoclasm **8th c.** Feast of Mary's Conception in the East **787** Council of Nicaea II						
Early Middle Ages 788–1054	**843** Triumph of Orthodoxy **849** Synod of Quiersy **1054** The Great Schism	—	—	—	—	—	—
After the Great Schism 1054–1499	**1059** Cardinals elect the pope **1059** Berengar recants **1095** The crusade indulgence **1123–1139** Lateran I and II **c. 1150** Seven sacraments counted **11th–12th c.** Prayer beads in use **1215** Fourth Lateran Council **1204** Sack of Constantinople **1274** Lyons II union rejected **1341–1351** Hesychast councils **1439–1484** Florence union and its rejection **1453** Fall of Constantinople	**1415** Jan Hus (precursor)	—	**1370s–1384** John Wycliffe (precursor)	—	—	**12th c.** Petrobrusians and Waldensians

	1274 Second Council of Lyons **c. 1300** Duns Scotus defends the doctrine **1302** Unam Sanctam **1336** Benedictus Deus **1439–1445** Council of Florence **1442** Florence, Cantate Domino **c. 1470–75** Alan de la Roche promotes the "Psalter of Mary" **1476** Sixtus IV approves the feast							
Reformation 1500–1599	**1546** Trent: Scripture and Tradition **1547** Trent: Justification **1551** Trent: Eucharist and Penance **1562** Trent: the Mass as sacrifice **1563** Trent: purgatory, saints, images, indulgences **1566–1570** Roman Catechism and Missal **1569** The rosary standardized	**1589** Patriarchate of Moscow	**1517** Ninety-Five Theses **1519** Leipzig Debate **1520** Luther's three treatises **1521** Diet of Worms **1522** Luther's German New Testament **1525** Luther marries **1529** Marburg Colloquy **1530** Augsburg Confession	**c. 1521** Hoen's letter **1522–1524** Removal of images **1523–1525** Zwingli: symbolic view **1536–1559** Calvin's Institutes **1563** Heidelberg Catechism	**1534** Act of Supremacy **1549** Book of Common Prayer **1563–1571** Thirty-Nine Articles	**1571** Anglican Thirty-Nine Articles (1563/1571), which Wesley abridged	**1521** Zwickau prophets **1524** Grebel's letter to Müntzer **Jan 21, 1525** First believer's baptism **1525** Hubmaier, On the Christian Baptism of Believers **Feb 1527** Schleitheim Confession **1527–1528** Martyrs: Manz, Sattler, Hubmaier **1528–1533** Hutterites	**1580s** English Separatists

	1596 Union of Brest		**1534** Luther's full Bible **1537** Smalcald Articles **1577–1580** Formula and Book of Concord				**1534–1535** Münster kingdom **1536–1540** Menno Simons	
Confessional era 1600–1799	**1661** Alexander VII's bull Sollicitudo	**1666–1667** Old Believers schism **1672** Synod of Jerusalem (Confession of Dositheus) **1782** The Philokalia	—	**1618–1619** Synod of Dort **July 1, 1643** Westminster Assembly **1646** Westminster Confession **1647–1648** Westminster Larger and Shorter Catechisms	**1611** King James Version **1662** Prayer Book of 1662; Act of Uniformity	**1729** The Holy Club at Oxford **May 24, 1738** Aldersgate **April 2, 1739** Field preaching **1743** The General Rules **June 25, 1744** The first Conference **1754–1755** Wesley's Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament **Sept. 1–2, 1784** Wesley ordains for America **Dec. 24, 1784–Jan. 1785** Christmas Conference **1787** Allen and Absalom Jones found the Free African Society in Philadelphia **March 2, 1791** Wesley dies **1794** Bethel congregation dedicated with Allen as pastor	**1632** Dordrecht Confession **1660** Martyrs Mirror **1683** Germantown, Pennsylvania **1693** Amish division	**1609** Smyth's self-baptism **1611** Helwys's Declaration of Faith **1612** First Baptist church in England; religious liberty **1633–1638** Particular (Calvinist) Baptists **1638–1639** First Baptist church in America **1641–1642** Immersion adopted **1644** First London Confession **1660** Standard Confession **1677/1689** Second London Confession **1707–1742** Philadelphia Association and Confession **1792** Baptist Missionary Society
Nineteenth century 1800–1899	**1854** Immaculate Conception			**1853** First woman ordained	**1826** Apocrypha dropped		—	

	1870 Vatican I: papal primacy and infallibility	**1848** Encyclical of the Eastern Patriarchs	**1847** Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod		**1867** First Lambeth Conference	**April 9–10, 1816** Richard Allen and the AME Church **1844–1845** Division over slavery: the Methodist Episcopal Church, South **1848** Moses Stuart's Scriptural View of the Wine-Question popularizes the temperance "two-wine theory" **August 23, 1860** Free Methodist Church **July 1867** Holiness camp meeting at Vineland **1869** Welch's unfermented communion "wine"		**1801** Cane Ridge camp meeting **1814** Triennial Convention **1830s** Dispensationalism and the rapture **1830s** Finney's "anxious bench" **1845** Southern Baptist Convention **1851** Landmarkism
Twentieth century to today 1900–today	**1950** The Assumption **1962–1965** Second Vatican Council **1968** Humanae Vitae **1969–1970** New Order of Mass **1992** Catechism of the Catholic Church **1994** Ordinatio Sacerdotalis	**1965** Excommunications of 1054 lifted **2016** Council of Crete **2018–2019** Ukrainian autocephaly	**1988** Evangelical Lutheran Church in America **1999** Joint Declaration on Justification	—	**1930** Lambeth Conference on contraception	**1916** Methodists require grape juice **1939–1968** Reunion and the Central Jurisdiction **April 23, 1968** The United Methodist Church **February 23–26, 2019** Special General Conference **May 1, 2022** Global Methodist Church	**2003–2010** Reconciliation	**1909** Scofield Reference Bible **1925** Baptist Faith and Message **1931** The Trail of Blood **1949–1965** Revivals and the sinner's prayer **1979–1990s** Conservative Resurgence **2000** Baptist Faith and Message 2000



Dates are approximate. "Doctrine defined or first taught" marks formal definitions (councils and papal definitions) for Catholics and Orthodox, and the first appearance of a distinctive teaching or practice for Lutherans, Reformed, Anglicans, Methodists, Anabaptists and Baptists.

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