

# RADICAL REFORMATION

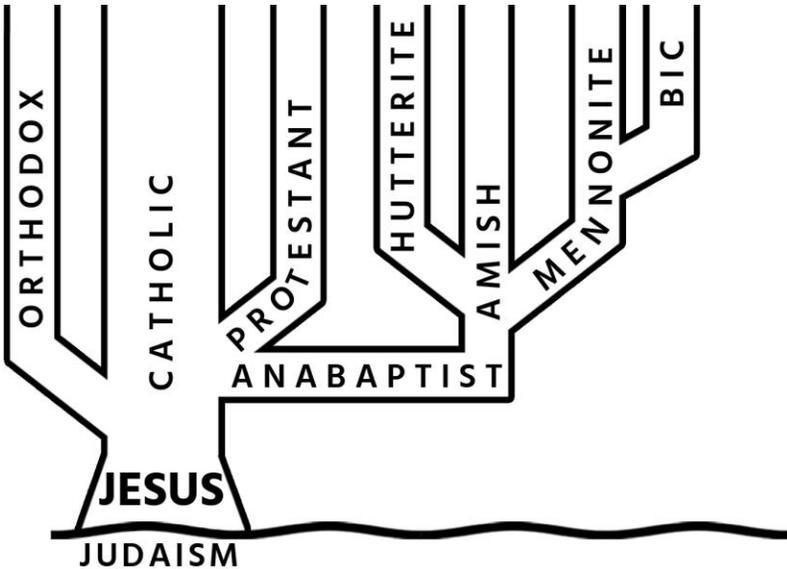
## Week 1: Anabaptists & Us

- Week 2: Anabaptists & Scripture
- Week 3: Anabaptists & Church
- Week 4: Anabaptists & Peace
- Week 5: Anabaptists & Mission

### APPETIZER: Roots & Shoots

- Anabaptism
  - Pietism
  - Wesleyanism (Methodism)
- } = **BRETHREN IN CHRIST ("TUNKERS")**

**ANA-BAPTIST** = re-baptizer (a pejorative term suggesting heresy)



### CONTEXT – THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

- *Martin Luther* – 95 Theses / translating Scripture
- *Ulrich Zwingli* – Teacher, then opponent, to the first Anabaptists
- *John Calvin* – Brilliant systematic Reformed theologian

### FOUNDERS – FIRST TO CHALLENGE THE INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

- *Students of Zwingli*
  - *Conrad Grebel / Felix Manz / George Blaurock*
  - The first believers baptism (Grebel baptized Blaurock in the home of Manz)
  - Death by disease, drowning, and burning
- *Michael Sattler* – Catholic Priest / Schleithem Confession / Burned
- *Menno Simons* (Mennonites) / *Jakob Hutter* (Hutterites) / *Jakob Ammann* (Amish)
- *Dirk Willems* – rescued his enemy / burned at the stake
- *Margaret Hellwart* – *The original Houdini*

### VALUES – WHAT THEY STOOD FOR, AND WHAT WE STAND FOR

*The Protestants gave everyone access to the Bible.  
The Anabaptists read it, and fell in love with Jesus.*

1. Faith is a choice (therefore baptism, a sign of faith, should be a choice)
2. The sacraments are symbols (expressions of faith)
3. The Bible is about Jesus (Jesus is our ultimate authority)
4. The Church is a family (not an institution)
5. The Church's mission is discipleship (not just salvation)
6. Christ's Kingdom is universal (not national)
7. Peace is the way we live (not just a goal to strive for)
8. Church discipline means confrontation (not coercion)
9. The Holy Spirit speaks through every believer (not just clergy)
10. The Gospel is about reconciliation (not just avoiding hell)
11. Simplicity makes room for relationship (and helps us help the poor)
12. Suffering for Jesus is a blessing (to be expected and embraced)

### DINE IN: Repent & Be Baptized

Acts 2:38-39

### TAKE OUT: Are you in or out?

LESSON: If you are fed up with the church, don't leave it, change it.

1 Corinthians 12:13

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how familiar have you been, prior to this series, on Anabaptism?
2. What are you most or least looking forward to in this series?
3. Review Sunday's message. Talk about what most encouraged, convicted, or puzzled you.

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

4. Read **Acts 2:37-47**.
  - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
  - b. What do you think caused people to be "pierced to the heart"? Look at **verse 36** and notice the role of God vs people (same in **verses 23-24**). Does this help explain it?
  - c. These new believers were continually devoting themselves to a few basic practices. Talk about each one and list examples of how your home church lives (or could live) this out.
  - d. The wonders and signs seemed to be performed by the apostles only. Why might God give exceptional miraculous gifts only to the original apostles and less so to all other believers?
  - e. Share your own baptism story. What was the experience like for you?
  - f. **ROLE PLAY:** Break up into pairs. Person "A" take the position of someone who says, "But I was baptized as a baby, and we should only have one baptism". Person "B" takes the position of an Anabaptist. Use this passage, and other Scriptures, to make your point.

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

5. Use your regular huddle questions for discussion before prayer.

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## Quotes

Welcome to our new series about our spiritual roots.

In the 1500s a revolution took place in the history of Christianity. The Catholic Church was in desperate need of reform, reinvention, or resistance.

First came the Protestant Reformation. Fueled by the recent invention of the printing press, this call for people to read the Bible for themselves and do what it says spread rapidly.

Then came the Radical Reformation. The students of the Reformers read their Bibles, and felt the reforms needed to go further. These were the Anabaptists.

As Brethren In Christ, we are among the inheritors of Anabaptism.  
~ E. Morris Sider

Anabaptists were neither Protestant nor Catholic, but a Third Way.  
~ Walter Klaasen

Anabaptists see Christianity as *discipleship*, the church as a *brotherhood*, and Christian practice as *an ethic of love and nonresistance*.  
~ Harold S. Bender

As Anabaptists, Jesus is the centre of our faith, community is the centre of our life, and reconciliation is the centre of our work.  
~ Palmer Becker

The Anabaptist tradition is profoundly Jesus-centred and resonates strongly with the call to "follow" Jesus.  
~ Stuart Murray

Follow me.  
~ Jesus