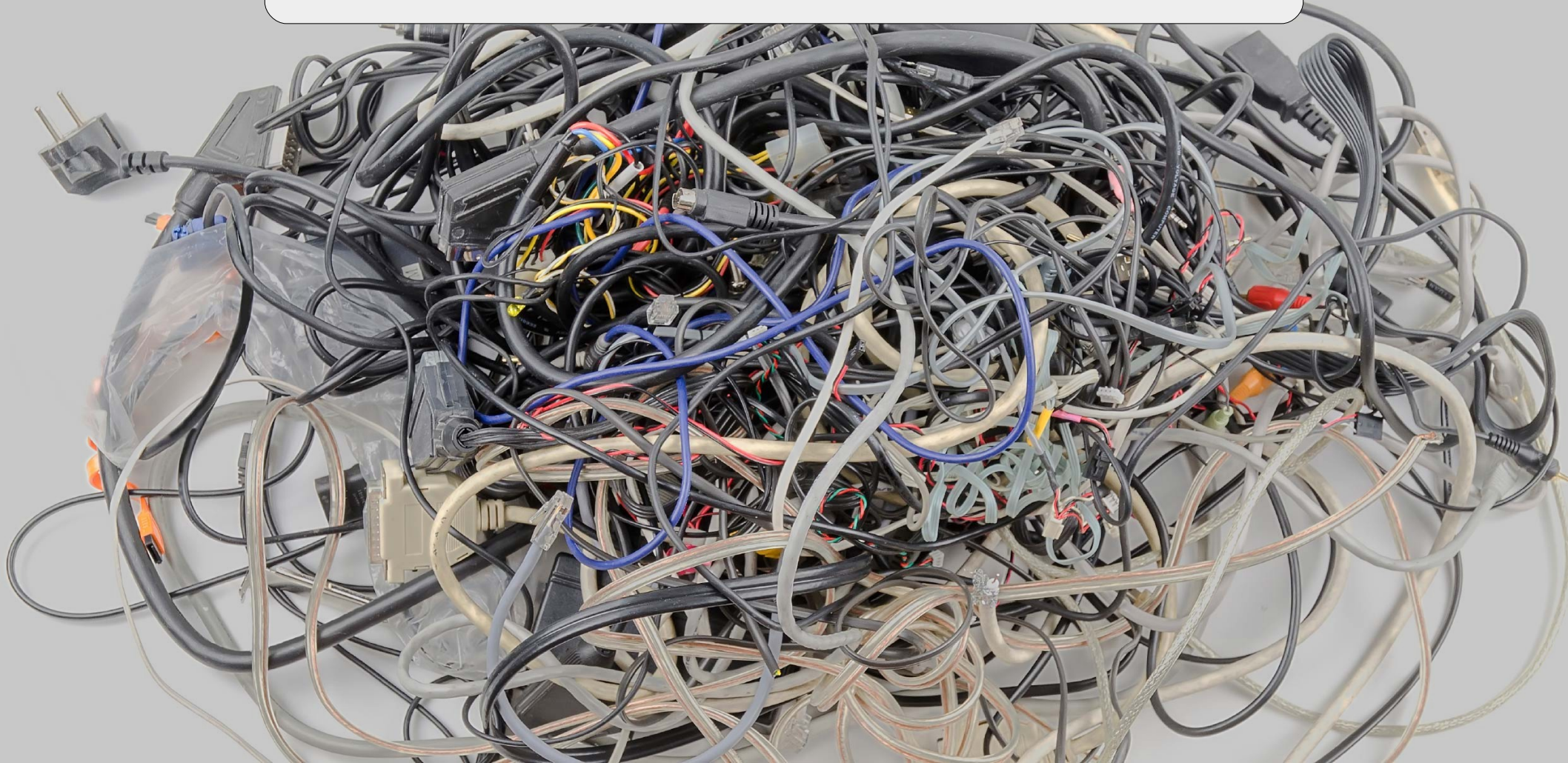


Untangling The Reformation

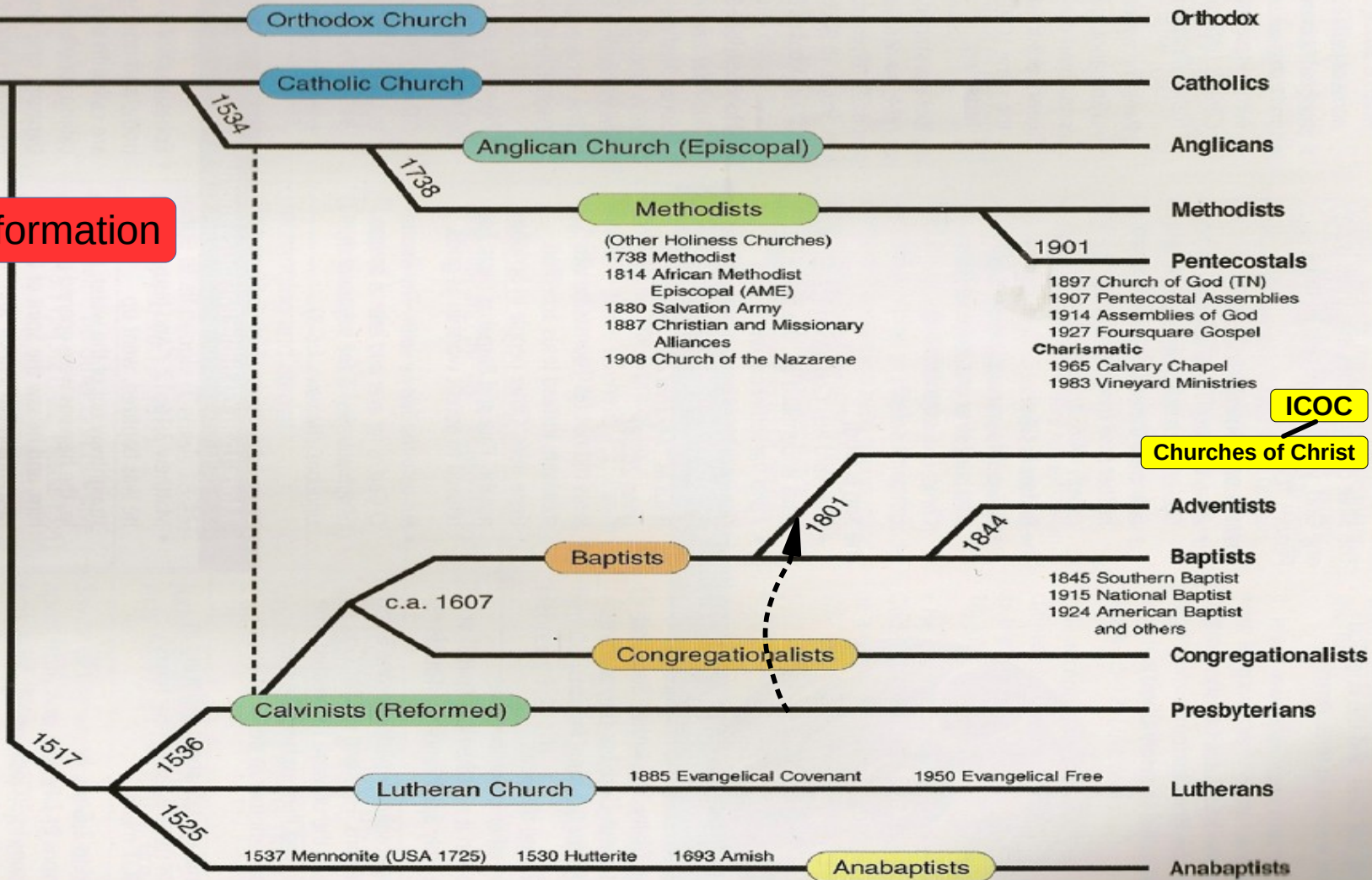


Family Tree of Denominations

The Undivided Church
Great Schism occurs
between East (Orthodox)
and West (Catholic)

The Reformation

Due to space limitations,
this chart shows only a
few major groups and
offshoots.



Original sin
God is in control
Children Sovereignty
Elect
Fall away Faith
Obedience Evil Hell
Predestination

How tangled up are you?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

A large, tangled mass of various cables and wires, including power cords, USB cables, and network cables, illustrating the concept of confusion. The cables are of various colors (white, grey, black) and are completely intermingled, making it difficult to distinguish individual wires. The background is a light, neutral color, which makes the tangled mess stand out.

Untangling The Reformation



Confusion abounds

Predestination

Am I one of the elect?

What does “God is in control” mean?

Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

Why doesn't God save everyone?

What is required of me?

Faith vs works

Can I lose my salvation?

Original sin? What about children?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Predestination
Am I one of the elect?
What does “God is in control” mean?
Why is there evil?
Why did God create hell?

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
Can I lose my salvation?
Original sin? What about children?

Let's take a quick look at each of those

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Predestination

Am I one of the elect?
What does “God is in control” mean?
Why is there evil?
Why did God create hell?

Did God decide in advance who would go to heaven and who would go to hell?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Predestination

Am I one of the elect?

What does “God is in control” mean?

Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

Rom 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Untangling The Reformation



Confusion abounds

Predestination

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Predestination

Am I one of the elect?
What does “God is in control” mean?
Why is there evil?
Why did God create hell?

God knew in advance who would be saved. And he predestined what he would do for them.

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Predestination

Am I one of the elect?

What does “God is in control” mean?

Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

Is there anything I can do that will affect whether or not I am one of the elect?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Predestination

Am I one of the elect?

What does “God is in control” mean?

Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

Mat 22:14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen [*eklektos*]."

What is required of me?

Faith vs works

Can I lose my salvation?

Original sin? What about children?

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Mat 22:14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen [*eklektos*]."

Gal 3:7 Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.

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Predestination

Am I one of the elect?

What does “God is in control” mean?

Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

God knew in advance who would have faith. He chose (elected) that they would receive his blessings. So it depends on us living by faith.

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Predestination

Am I one of the elect?

What does “God is in control” mean?

Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

Does God always get what he wants?

Untangling The Reformation

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Predestination

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Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

Mat 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.

Untangling The Reformation

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Predestination

Am I one of the elect?

What does “God is in control” mean?

Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

God seeks a relationship with those who make the free will choice to obey him. He chooses not to control our choice.

Untangling The Reformation

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What does “God is in control” mean?

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Why did God create hell?

Why doesn't God eliminate all evil and suffering in the world?

Untangling The Reformation

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Heb 11:17a By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice.

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God tests our faith by the free will choices we make. Free will requires an alternative option.

Untangling The Reformation

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Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

Is it really necessary to punish sin?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Predestination

Am I one of the elect?

What does “God is in control” mean?

Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

Rom 3:25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood--to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--

Untangling The Reformation

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Why did God create hell?

Rom 3:26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

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The cross pays the penalty for the faithful. But God’s justice requires punishment for the rest.

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Couldn't the cross pay the penalty for everyone?

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
Can I lose my salvation?
Original sin? What about children?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

1Co 1:21b God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

It's entirely God's choice whom he will save. He chooses to give grace to the faithful.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Is my salvation guaranteed regardless of what I do? Or is more expected of me?

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
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Original sin? What about children?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Rom 1:5 Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

2Th 1:8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
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Original sin? What about children?

Untangling The Reformation



Confusion abounds

Our salvation depends on our continued obedient faithfulness.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Does James 2 contradict Romans 3?

Why doesn't God save everyone?

What is required of me?

Faith vs works

Can I lose my salvation?

Original sin? What about children?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Jas 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
Can I lose my salvation?
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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Jas 2:24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
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Can I lose my salvation?
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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Rom 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

We are justified through obedient faith (Rom 1:5). But our obedience does not *earn* our justification.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Are we “Once saved, always saved?”

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Gal 5:21b I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
Can I lose my salvation?
Original sin? What about children?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

The New Testament is full of warnings for Christians to remain faithful so they do not lose what they have received.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
Can I lose my salvation?
Original sin? What about children?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Why don't we baptize infants?

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
Can I lose my salvation?
Original sin? What about children?

Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Mat 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
Can I lose my salvation?
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Untangling The Reformation

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Act 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
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Act 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Repentance and the decision to make Jesus Lord are choices requiring maturity.

Why doesn't God save everyone?
What is required of me?
Faith vs works
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Untangling The Reformation

Confusion abounds

Predestination

Am I one of the elect?

What does "God is

Why is there evil?

Why did God create hell?

There is a lot of confusion about these topics!

Why doesn't God save everyone?

What is required of me?

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Predestination
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What does “God is in control” mean?
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We'll look more thoroughly at these in subsequent classes

Untangling The Reformation



This class series

Introduction: Historical background
Five Solas of the Reformation
Calvinism: TULIP
What do the scriptures say?

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Untangling The Reformation

Theme: Obedient faith

Rom 1:5 Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake.

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