

Today's Class:

The Restoration Movement, Part 2

- Introduction
- Campbell and Stone movements unite
- Now what?
- Second generation leadership, challenges, division
- The Restoration Movement today

Ideology of the Restoration Movement

- “The Restoration Movement is a movement that began in America about the year 1800, in order to restore the church to the ideals that are pictured in the New Testament.” --James North in *Union of Truth, An Interpretive History of the Restoration Movement*.
- Primary concerns of the Restoration Movement:
 - Biblical authority
 - Christian unity

Stone and Campbell Movements

- Similarities
 - Committed to ideal of Christian unity
 - Scripture alone authoritative for doctrine and practice
 - Christ alone is object of faith (“No creed but Christ”)
 - Rejection of Calvinism
 - The gospel was for all to hear and believe (“free will”)
 - Baptism, by immersion, for forgiveness of sins
 - Opposed the use of sectarian names for people or churches

Stone and Campbell Movements

- Differences

Stone	Campbell
Emphasized church unity	Emphasize restoration of primitive church
Less emphasis on baptism for forgiveness	More emphasis on baptism
More sense of clergy	Less emphasis on clergy
Conversion experience emphasized	Conversion more an intellectual exercise
Communion less frequently	Communion every Sunday
“Christians”	“Disciples”

Stone and Campbell movements unite

- 1830: Campbell leaves the local Baptist association.
- 1831: Campbell and Stone meet to discuss unification of their movements
- 1832: Stone agrees to merging churches, Campbell cautious but supportive
 - Merging of congregations was voluntary
 - Merging was often difficult

Now what? Grow!

- Initial merger: 10,000 “Christians” (Stone) and 12,000 “Disciples” (Campbell)
 - By 1860, Disciples churches with over 190,000 members
- Campbell was the leader of the combined churches
 - In 1835, Wrote *A Connected View of the Principles by which the Living Oracles May be Intelligibly and Certainly Interpreted*, aka *The Christian System*
 - Frequent writer in *The Millennial Harbinger*

Growth and Organization Continues

- 1840: First statewide assembly (Indiana)
- 1849: First national convention
 - Cincinnati
 - Formed the American Christian Missionary Society
 - The convention was quite controversial
- American Civil War challenged the Disciples churches (as it did most others in America)

Challenges to the growing churches

- Rapid growth continues in late 1800s
 - 1860: 190,000
 - 1875: 400,000
 - 1900: 1,200,000
- Church was more dominant in rural areas and small towns, while America was becoming increasingly urban.
- Old issues continue to drive arguments
 - Open communion
 - The role of Biblical authority
 - Missionary societies and the whole issue of inter-church cooperation and organization.

The trigger for the first split in the Restoration Movement...

“A picture of an organ”

Springfield, MO, Jan 31, 1887. For several weeks a warm and at times acrimonious warfare has been waged in the Christian Church, of this city, between those who oppose the musical instruments in public worship and those who favored the organ. Yesterday, affairs were brought to a crises, and there were some sensational scenes. After the pastor, E. G. Laughlin, had read the opening hymn, the organist began playing and many joined in the singing, but at the same time the opponents of the organ started up another tune, and a pandemonium ensued. When the sacrament was announced, Brother Rogers arose and said he preferred not to partake with the organ people. After the sacrament, an anti-organ brother arose to smooth matters over with a talk, but was interrupted with a lively hymn volunteered by the organ crowd. At the close of the services, Mr. Bills, having consulted a lawyer, was advised to play the organ at all hazards, and he did so, and the meeting broke up in confusion. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, quoted in *The Christian Evangelist*. From McAllister and Lester *A Journey in Faith*, p. 274.

In 1870s and 1880s, churches lined up and/or split over the issue. By 1906, 160,000 former Disciples members now belonged to the new “Church of Christ”

Growth continues...

Communion service at the Centennial Convention, 1909. Forbes Field, Pittsburg.
50,000 delegates, 11,647 congregations, 1.25 million members

Liberalism and the Disciples Churches

- Wave of intellectual thought in America after Civil War
 - Charles Darwin
 - Biblical criticism
- 1890 incident at Central Christian Church in St. Louis forced resignation of pastor and an uproar in other churches
- Liberal teaching in the Bible colleges sparked many articles in *The Christian Standard* and other publications
- Beginning in the 1920s, churches left the Disciples movement to form the loose collective known as the “Christian Churches and Churches of Christ”
 - First North American Convention in 1927
 - Many more churches formally left when the Disciples started a large reorganization effort in the 1960’s. They formally became the “Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), very much like a mainline denomination.

The Restoration Movement

