

The Origins of Modern Church Practices

1: The order of Worship

The Sunday Morning Order of Worship- Evolved from Gregory's Mass in the sixth century to the revisions made by Luther, Calvin, the Puritans, the Free Church tradition, the Methodists, the Frontier-Revivalists, and the Pentecostals.

Taking the Lord's Supper Quarterly- Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531).

The " Communion Table "- Introduced by Ulrich Zwingli. The candles on the top of the Communion Table and Incense Burning- Borrowed from the ceremonial court of Roman Emperors in the fourth century.

The Altar-Call- Invented by 17th-century Methodist and popularized by Charles Finney (1792-1872).

Bowing Heads with Eyes Closed and Raising the Hand in Response to a Salvation Message- Billy Graham in the 20th century.

Solo or Choral Music Played During the Offering- 20th century Pentecostals.

2: The Sermon

Origin of the Modern Sermon- Borrowed from the Greek sophist, who were masters at oratory and rhetoric. John Chrysostom (347-407) and Augustine (354-430) popularized the Greco-Roman homily (sermon) and made it a central part of the Christian faith. *Theological Preaching and not reading the Scriptures.

3: THE Church Building

The Church Building- Started by Constantine around A.D. 327. The first church buildings were patterned after the Roman basilicas which were modeled after Greek temples.

The Pastor's Chair- Derived from the cathedral, which was the bishop's chair or throne. This chair replaced the seat of the judge in the Roman basilica.

Stained Glass Windows- First introduced by Gregory of Tours (538-593) and brought to perfection by Sugar (1081-1151), abbot of St, Denis.

The Steeple- Rooted in ancient Babylon and Egyptian architecture and philosophy, the steeple was a medieval invention that was popularized and modernized by Sir Christopher Wren in London around 1666.

4: The Pastor

Hierarchical Leadership- Brought into the church by Constantine in the fourth century. This was the leadership style of the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans.

The Title " Pastor " - Catholic priest who became ministers were not universally called " Pastors " until the 18th century under the influence of Lutheran Pietists.

5: Sunday Morning Costumes

Christians Wearing Their " Sundays Best " for church- Began in the late 18th century with the Industrial Revolution and became widespread in the mid-19th century. The practice is rooted in the emerging middle class effort to become like their wealthy aristocrat contemporaries.

The Clergy Costume- Began in A.D. 330 when Christian clergy began wearing the garb of Roman officials. By the 12th century, the clergy began wearing everyday street cloths that distinguished them from the people.

The Clerical (Backwards) Collar- Invented by Rev. Dr. Donald Mcleod of Glasgow in 1865.

The Evangelical Pastor's Suit- A descendant of the black scholar's gown worn by Reformation ministers, the black lounge suit of the 20th century became the typical costume of the modern pastor.

6: Ministers of Music

The Choir- Provoked by Constantine's desire to mimic the professional music used in Roman imperial ceremonies. In the fourth century, the

Christians borrowed the choir idea from the choirs used in Greek dramas and Greek temples.

The Boys Choir- Began in the fourth century, borrowed from the boys choirs used by the pagans.

The Worship Team- Calvary Chapele in 1965, patterned after the secular rock concert.

7: Clergy Salaries

Clergy Salaries- Instituted by Constantine in the fourth century.

8: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Infant Baptism- Rooted in the superstitious beliefs that pervaded the Greco-Roman culture, it was brought into Christian faith in the late second century. By the fifth century, it replaced adult baptism.

Sprinkling Replacing Immersion- Began in the late middle ages in the Western churches.

The " Sinner's Prayer "- Invented by D.L. Moody (1837-1899) and made popular in the 1950s with Billy Graham's Peace With God tract and later with Campus Crusade for Christ's Four Spiritual Laws.

Use of the term " Personal Savior "- Spawned in the mid-1800s by the Frontier- Revivalist influence and popularized by Charles Fuller (1887-1968).

The Lord's Supper Condensed to grape Juice and the Bread- The late second century as a result of pagan ritual influences.

9: Christian Education

The Catholic Seminary- The first seminary began as a result of the Council of Trent (1545-1563). The curriculum was based on the teachings of Thomas Aquinas which was a blending of Aristotle's philosophy, and Christian doctrine.

The Protestant Seminary- Began in Andover, Massachusetts in 1808. It too was built on the teachings of Thomas Aquinas.

The Bible College- Influenced by the revivalism of D.L. Moody (1837-1899), the first two Bible colleges were The Missionary Training Institute (Nyack College, New York) in 1882 and Moody Bible Institute (Chicago) in 1886.

The Sunday School- Invented by Robert Raikes from Britain in 1780. Raikes did not found the Sunday School for the purpose of religious instruction. He founded it to teach poor children the basic of education.

The Youth Pastor- Invented in urban churches in the late 1930's and 40's as a result of seeking to meet the needs of a new sociological class called " teenagers."

AMEN

The prayer termination, Amen is in honor of Amen the deity of the Upper Nile. Some Pharaohs such as Tutankhamen, Amenhotep have their names in honor of Amen.

Christ is from the Greek word Kristus. Alexander the Great [Robber] invaded India and took along some religious philosophers who taught the Greeks about Krishna. Simply put, Christ is a corruption of Krishna.

Amen and Ancestor Worship

The first Pharaoh of Egypt is Aha-Mena. The Deity, Amen of the Upper Nile of Egypt was created as the Ancestor worship of Kermit's first Pharaoh.

Amen was incorporated into the creation of Christianity because in Ancient Rome, Egyptian temples were highly regarded, thus it was necessary to incorporate the name of a deity that was popular among Romans.

Despite the African input into the creation of Christianity, I would like to mention that all State religions are political tools to control people. After much persecution of its initial adherents, Christianity was strategically nationalized and enforced. The moment the State or an Authority starts to ask, "Do you believe in ..." , there is something fishy going on. If something is true, Belief should not be extracted to prove it. Rather it should be tested and proven to deserve a belief.

Amen also found its way to the Arabs where it became Amin. Islam was created from the Greek Orthodox Church. Up till now, in Palestine, there are Bibles written in Arabic. The black dressing gowns encouraged as an Islamic dressing has already been used by Medieval Europeans. Mosque is a Church!