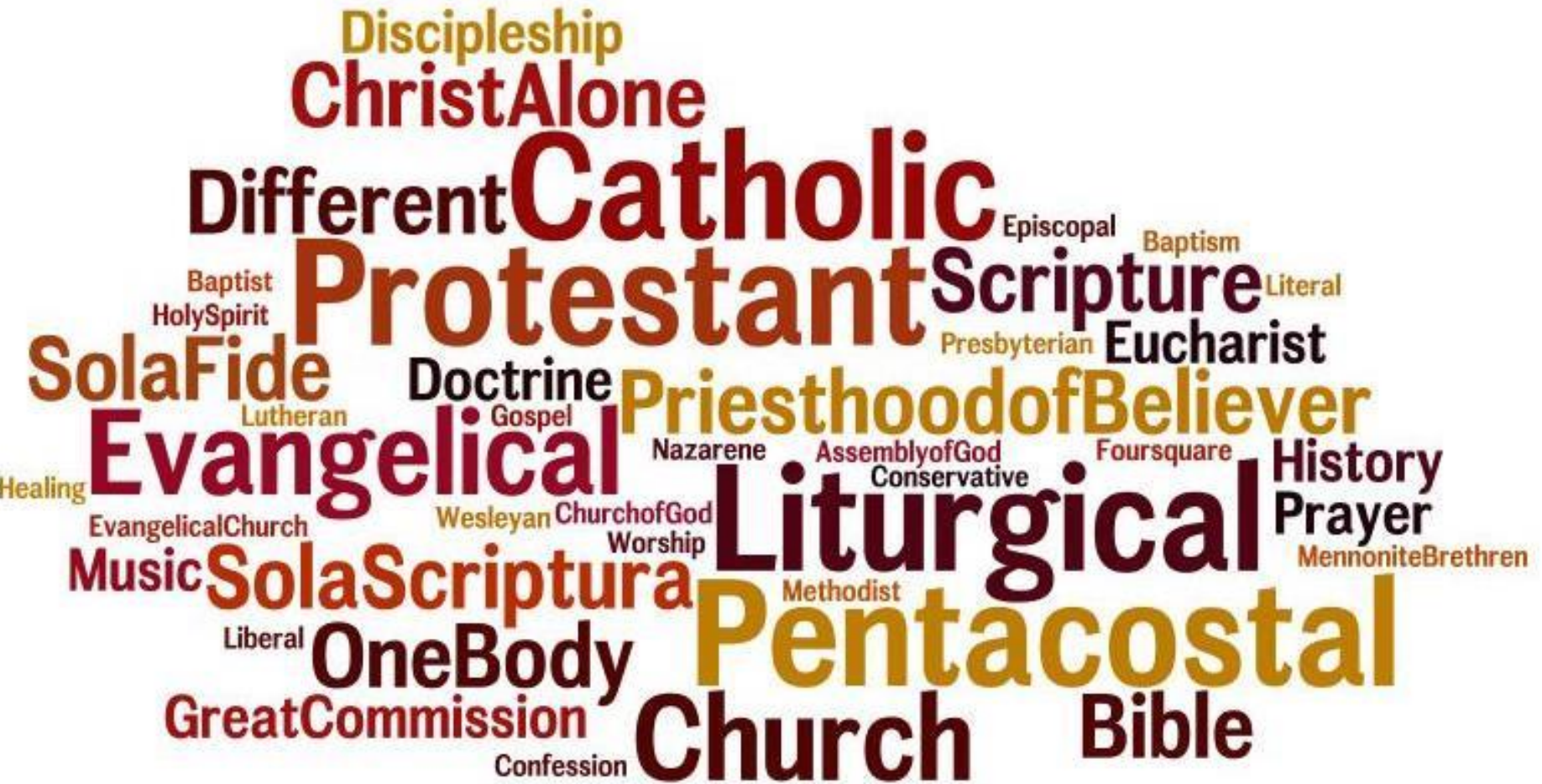


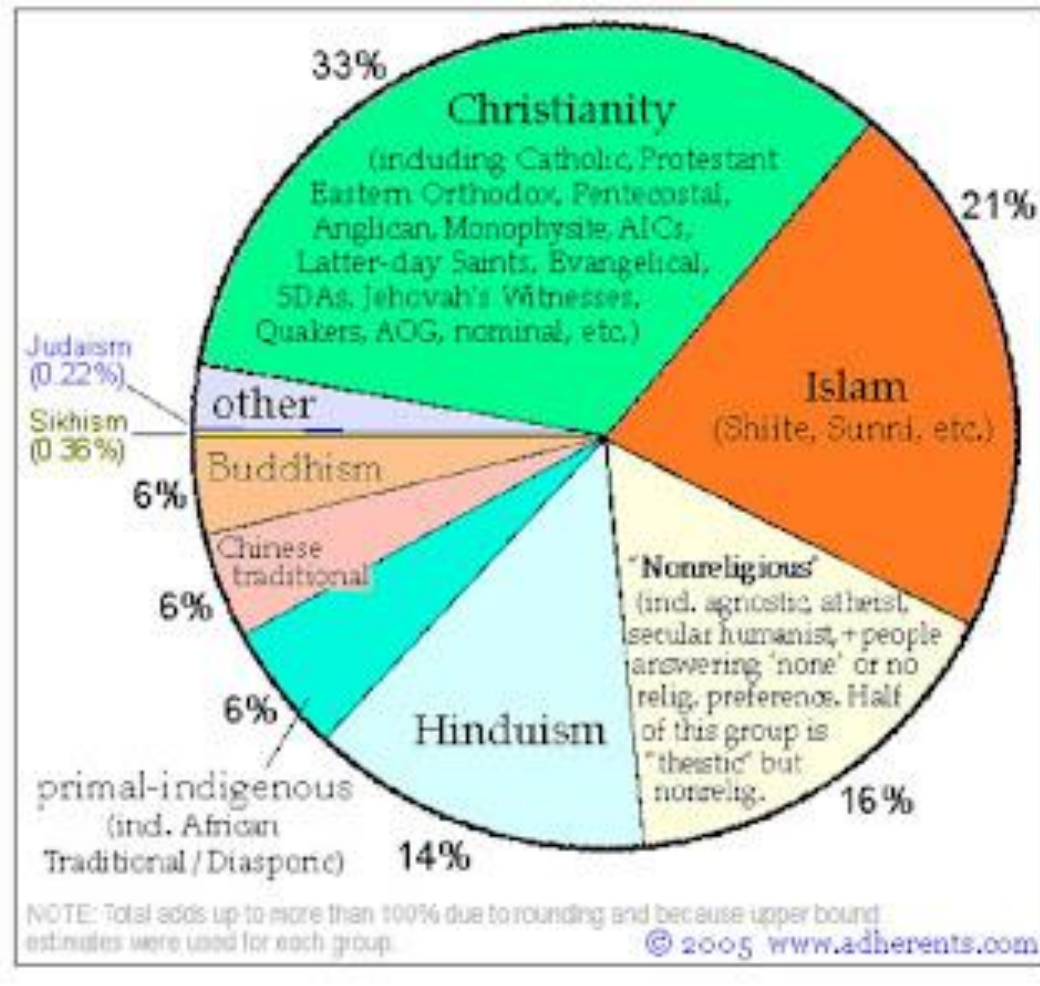
Theme: Our Relationships



Christians are divided into over 40,000 denominations

“At Peace With Others” Mark 9:37-41

Christianity is one of the most successful religions in the world. It accounts for about 1/3 of the world’s population. These Christian groups are divided into over 40,000 different denominations.



The percentages of various religions of world population as of 2005

Mark 9:37-41 [ESV]

37 "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."

39 But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40 For the one who is not against us is for us.

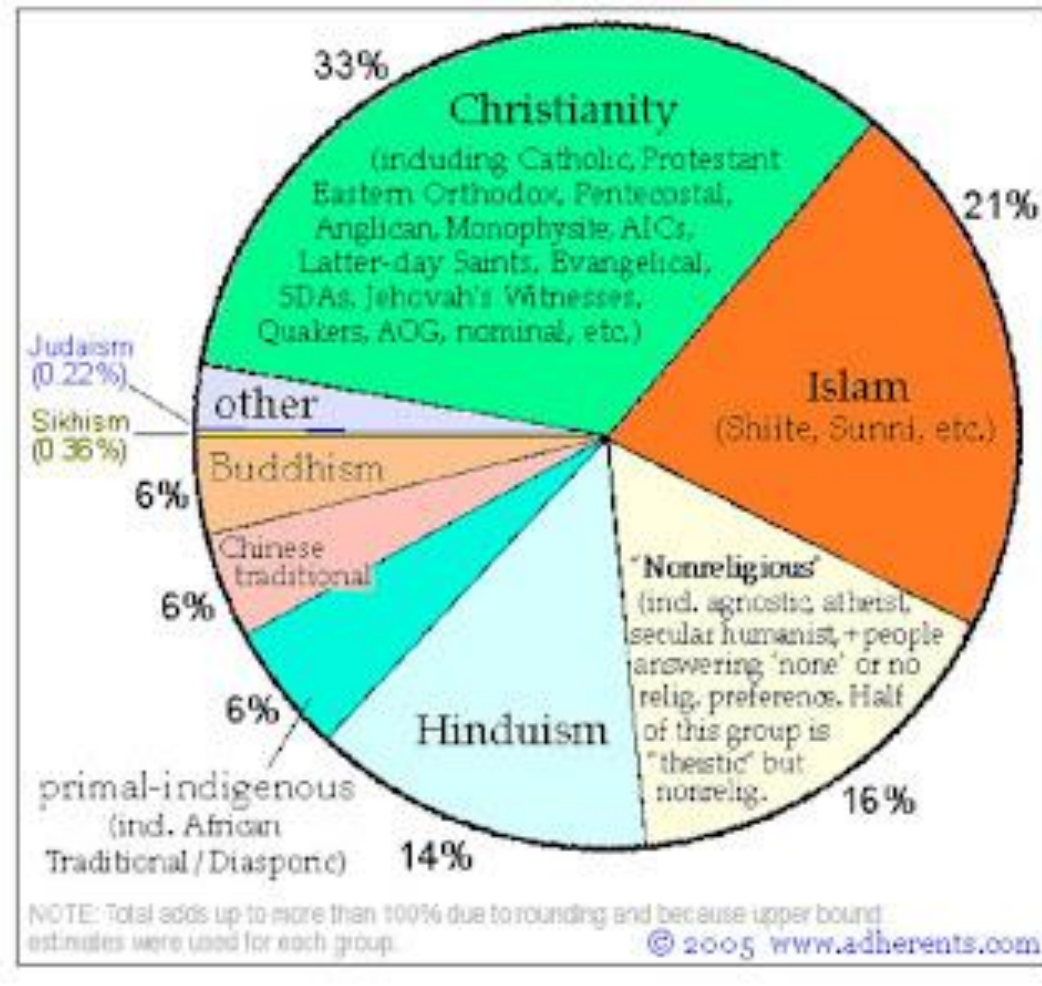
41 For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.

* Luke 9:47-50

“At Peace With Others” Mark 9:37-41

3 Thoughts:

1. Accepting the others who do not agree with you but share a common faith.
2. It is not ultimately about my team but about Christ's Lordship.
3. The Blessing of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.



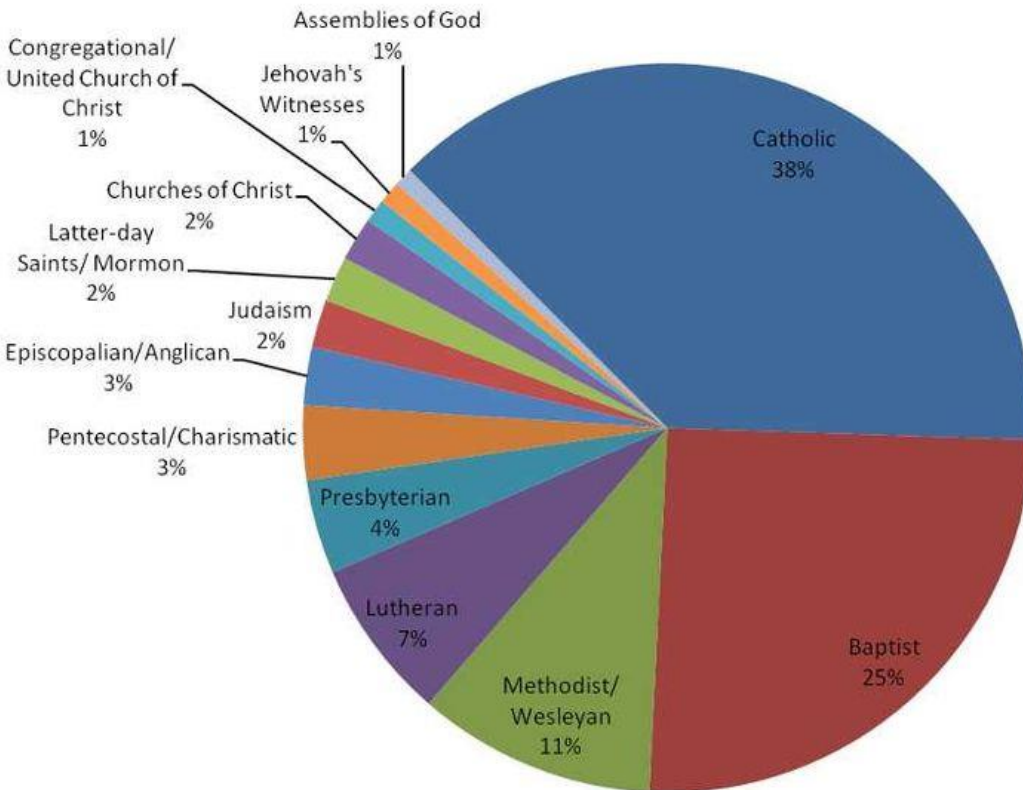
The percentages of various religions of world population as of 2005

1 Corinthians 12:1-3 [ESV]

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. 3 **Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.**

“At Peace With Others” Mark 9:37-41

US Denominations Number of Adherents



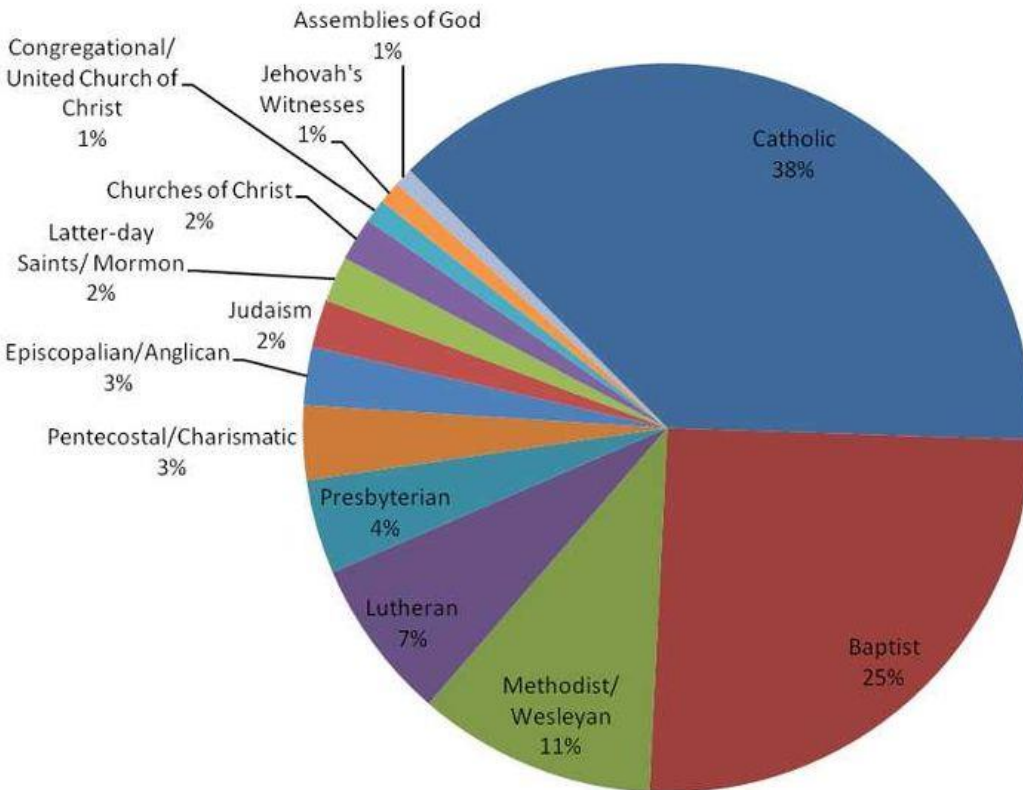
Of the percentage of those who claim Christianity the largest denominational group by far is the Roman Catholic. This is followed by about equal representations of Baptist Organizations and Charismatic/Pentecostal Organizations. Christianity makes up the largest Religion in the world.

Feb. 19, 2023

The percentages of various denominations in the USA.
Garrison Church of God

“At Peace With Others” Mark 9:37-41

US Denominations Number of Adherents



The one doctrine that unites all Christians is the belief in the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ.

In fact, if you do not believe that Jesus was both fully God and fully man you are not a Christian. The definition of a Christian is this belief.

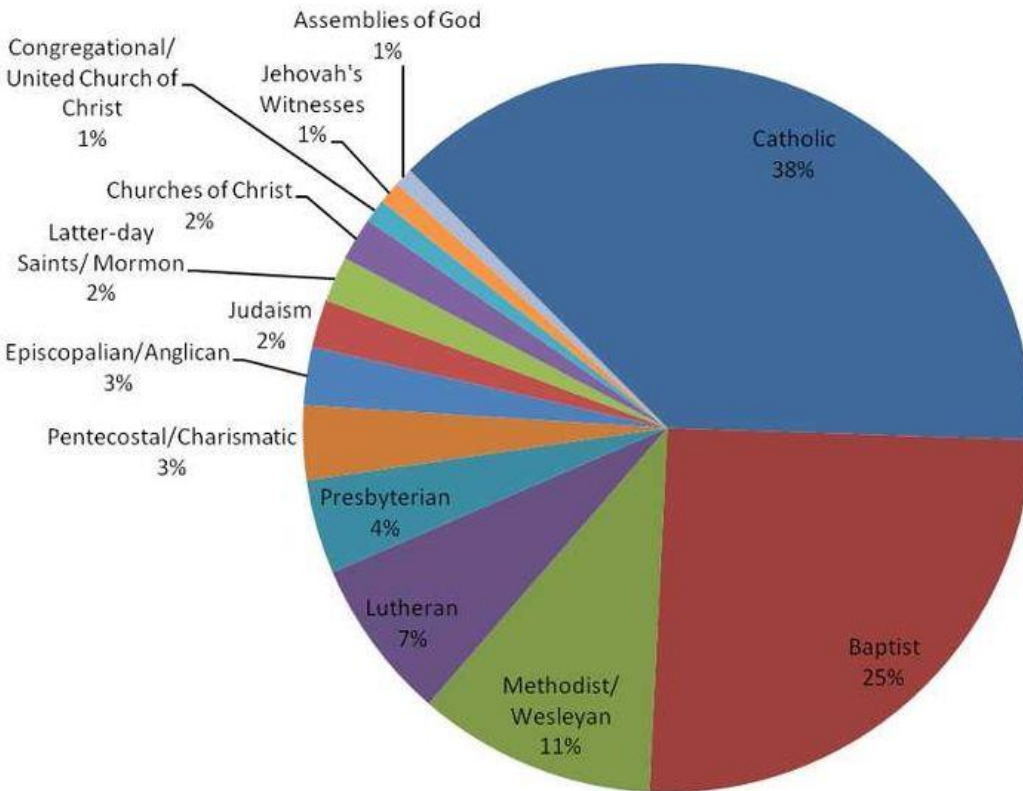
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Paul states this clearly in 1 Corinthians 12:3 where he makes the Lordship of Jesus Christ central to the Christian faith. In Ephesians, he would say we have “one Lord and one Faith....” [Ephesians 4:3-5].

US Denominations Number of Adherents



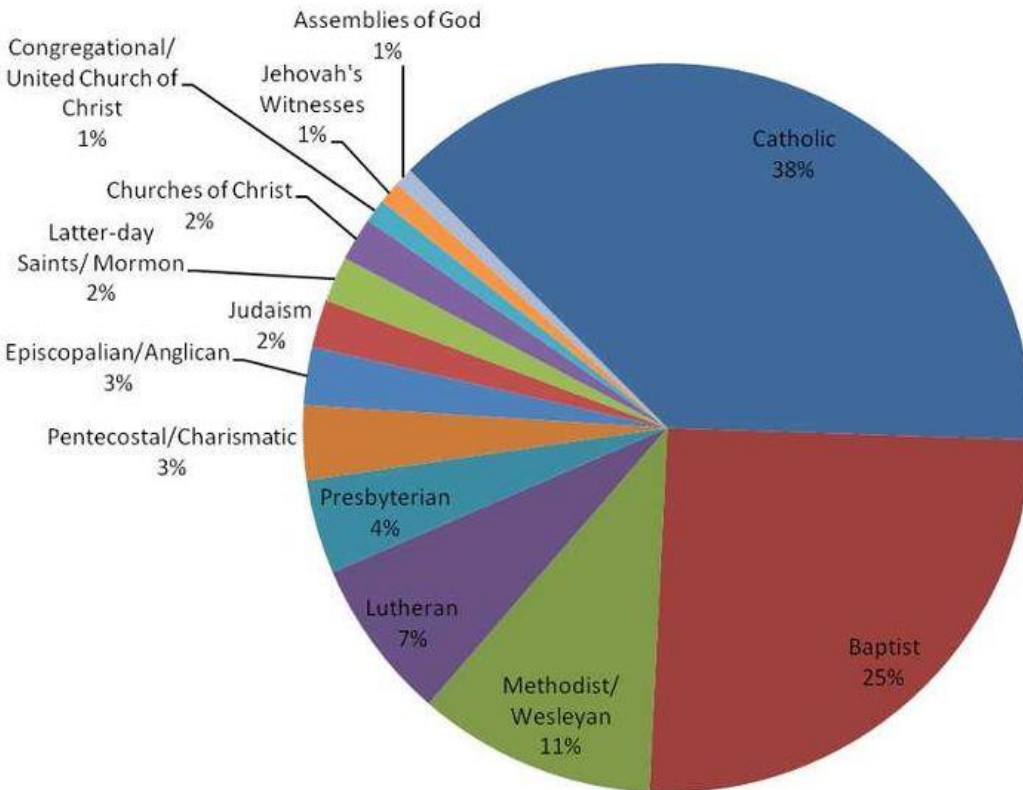
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Feb. 19, 2023

“At Peace With Others”

Mark 9:37-41

US Denominations Number of Adherents



2 ...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. 4 There is **one body and one Spirit** — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — 5 **one Lord, one faith, one baptism,** 6 **one God and Father of all**, who is over all and through all and in all.

[Ephesians 4:3-5]

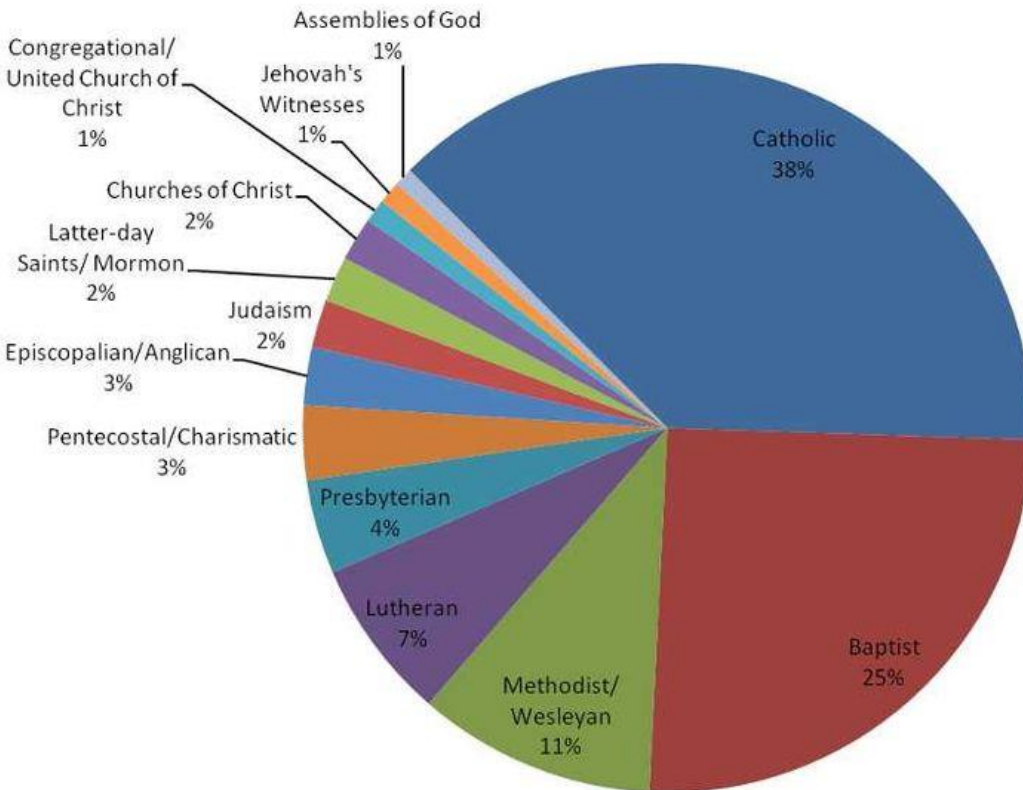
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Mark 9:37-41

US Denominations Number of Adherents



There are 6 doctrines that are intragal to maintaining the doctrine of the Divinity and Humanity of Jesus:

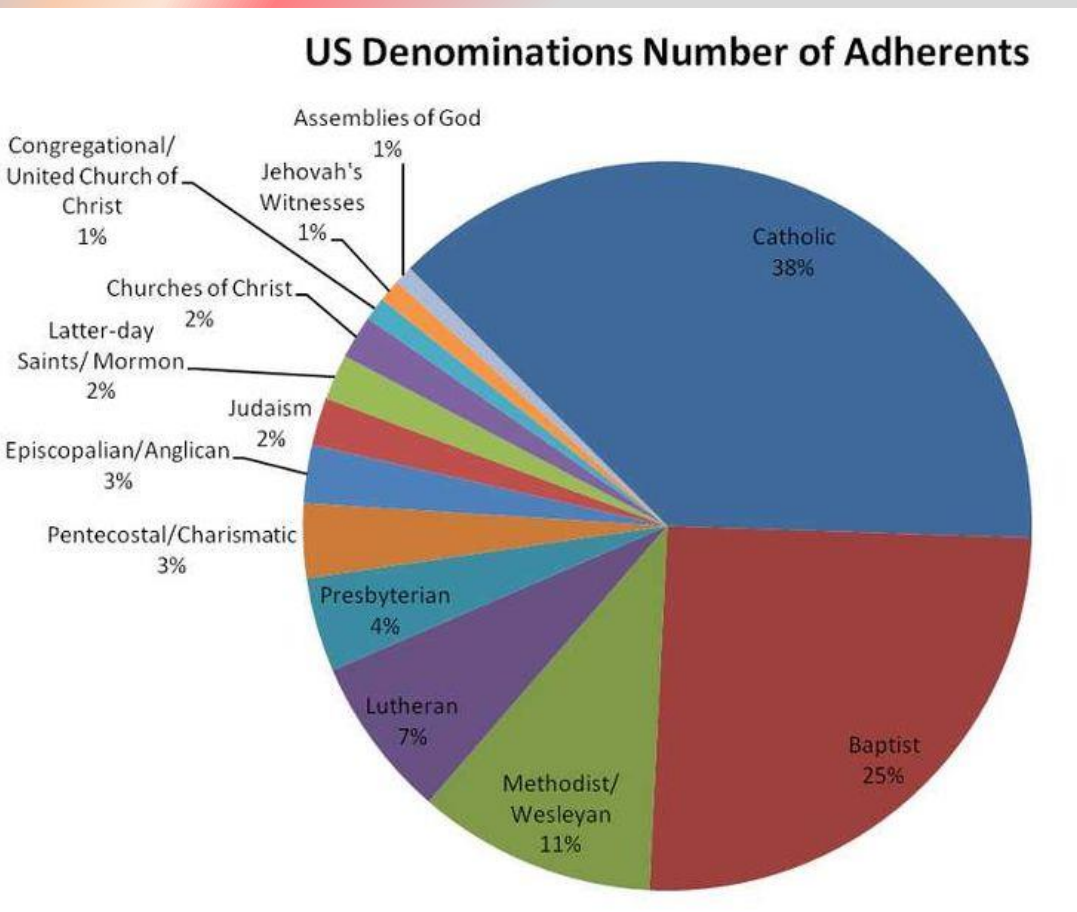
1. The Trinity
2. The Virgin Birth
3. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus
4. The Atonement Sacrifice of Jesus
5. The Resurrection of Jesus
6. The Authority of Scripture

The percentages of various denominations in the USA.
Garrison Church of God

Feb. 19, 2023

“At Peace With Others”

Mark 9:37-41



In fact, it is near impossible to maintain the central tenant of our faith and disbelieve in just one of these 6 cardinal doctrines. If you deny more than one you can not reasonably maintain a belief in the full divinity and full humanity of Jesus Christ.

The percentages of various denominations in the USA.
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Feb. 19, 2023

Philippians 1:14-18 [ESV]

14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. 15 **Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.** 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,...

“At Peace With Others” Mark 9:37-41

The Great Schism of 1054, Manuscript Painting. From the 12th century.



The most consequential church division in history happened in 1054. The Bishop of Rome and the Patriarch of Constantinople mutually excommunicated one another. This conflict between Western and Eastern Christianity had been developing for nearly 600 years to that point. Some of the disputes were about practice, others involved political considerations, and some were doctrinal in nature. The same considerations divide our denominations today.

“At Peace With Others” Mark 9:37-41

The Great Schism of 1054, Manuscript Painting. From the 12th century.



These 3 reasons have driven most of the divisions between various Christian churches. That does not mean that these divisions are not important. It was not until the Christian community began to develop political power that we see vicious battles between various Christian sects. Even when they disagreed on lesser doctrines, they did not excommunicate one another and deny Christian brotherhood with others who held to the central tenants of the faith. In the early centuries of the Christian faith there were often strong disagreements about political structure, worship practice and less central doctrines.

Matthew 7:21-24 [ESV]

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

“At Peace With Others”

Mark 9:37-41

The Great Schism of 1054, Manuscript Painting. From the 12th century.



There were those who claimed the name of Christ who were not really Christians. This was especially true after Christianity became politically powerful. Many people who were not committed to the Lordship of Christ flooded into the faith. The Christian community was used to fortify and legitimize political and social power. Byzantine Emperors used the church which they controlled to justify attacks on Armenian Christians and Coptic Christians who the Byzantine government saw as a threat. Because they were Nestorian and Eutychian in their understanding of Christ's Divinity and Humanity the Greek church justified the government's actions.

“At Peace With Others” Mark 9:37-41

The Great Schism of 1054, Manuscript Painting. From the 12th century.



When we fail to live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and brutalize our fellow believers we dishonor Christ and and prove we do not belong to Him.

Numbers 11:11-15 [ESV]

11 Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me?"

12 Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,' to the land that you swore to give their fathers?"

13 Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.'

14 I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me.

15 If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness."

“At Peace With Others”

Mark 9:37-41



> Pope Leo IX form a manuscript
< Lead seal of Patriarch Michael I Cerularius

This event more than any other would lead to the concept of “Western Civilization”. The vast number of Christian organizations in our present world are descendants of the Western side of this division.



“At Peace With Others”

Mark 9:37-41



> Pope Leo IX form a manuscript
< Lead seal of Patriarch Michael I Cerularius



In Numbers Moses is weary of leading the Children of Isreal. God knows that no matter how well Moses leads that rivalries and self interest would develop. Ultimately the Israelites were not Moses’ people but God’s people.

John 10:14-18 [ESV]

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 **And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.** 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

“At Peace With Others”

Mark 9:37-41



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Mutual excommunication lead to wars and brutality. This, then, is the date when the Latin Church became the Roman Catholic Church. 500 years later, the Reformation would begin fracturing this Western Christianity into the various denominations we see today.

Numbers 11:16-17 [ESV]

16 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. 17 And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.

“At Peace With Others” Mark 9:37-41

House of the Rock Temple in Nigeria it is the largest church in Africa. The auditorium seats 30,000 with a Sunday attendance of 75,000



In 2018 the Continent of Africa surpassed every other continent for the percentage of its population that is Christian. Most of the Christians in the world will soon live either in Africa or South America. What is astounding is the growth of Christianity from the Jewish religion which has always made up less than 1% of the world's population to the dominant religion in the world. No other world religion even comes close to the growth and influence of the Christian faith.

Galatians 6:9-10 [ESV]

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

“At Peace With Others” Mark 9:37-41

House of the Rock Temple in Nigeria it is the largest church in Africa. The auditorium seats 30,000 with a Sunday attendance of 75,000



It is difficult when those who proclaim that they are “Christian” belittle and attack fellow Christians without cause. Jesus had some interesting things to say about our relationships with those who claim the name of Christ.

Numbers 11:24-29 [ESV]

24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. 25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. 26 Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.

Numbers 11:24-29 [ESV]

27 And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them."

29 But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

