

History Seminar: Protestant Denominations

Session No. 3: The Methodists

Methodist History: *Where Did They Come From?*

- **Soil:** Methodism Originates as a Revival Movement within the Church of England in 1738.
 - Developed by **John and Charles Wesley**.
 - Developed at an Oxford Small Group, Mockingly Called the “**Holy Club**”
 - Developed as a Method for Holy Living, Mockingly Called the “**Methodists**”
- **Roots:** Methodism Takes Root after Wesley Brothers’ Conversion Experience at Aldersgate in 1738.
 - Inspiring John Wesley’s **Open-Air Preaching**
 - Inspiring Charles Wesley’s **Hymn-Writing**
 - Inspiring Methodism’s **Small Groups**



- **Shoots:** Methodism Spreads to the New World and Splits from the Church of England.
 - Spreads to Colonial America by **George Whitefield** and **John Wesley**.
 - Splits from Church of England During **American Revolution**.
 - Organizes Under **Thomas Coke** and **Francis Asbury** as the **Methodist Episcopal Church**.

- **Fruits:** Methodism Develops and Divides into Denominations
 - Over **Church Government:** *Wesleyan Church, United Methodist Church*
 - Over **Slavery:** *African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church; African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.*
 - Over **LGBTQ Affirmation and Ordination:** *7,659 (1/4th) of United Methodist Churches Left in December 2023.*

Methodist Theology: *What Do They Believe?*

- **John Wesley's *Doctrinal Minutes*:** *A synthesis of John Wesley's positions on key doctrines, such as justification, sanctification, ecclesiology, etc.*

- **John Wesley's *Sermons*:** *A compilation of Wesley's sermon deemed exemplary in doctrine and delivery.*

- **John Wesley's *Explanatory Notes Upon the New Testament*:** *A Biblical commentary and translation of the New Testament published in 1755.*

- **John Wesley's *Amended Articles of Faith*:** *An alteration of Anglicanism's 39 Articles of Faith, tailored to fit Methodism's theological distinctives.*



