



Who do you think you are? Thinking Like a Christian April-June 2020

5. What is real faith?: The Evangelical Revivals AD1700-1800

1. True faith vs. false faith

The story of the 16th & 17th Century.

But by 1700...

2. Heart faith vs. formal faith

a) John Bunyan and *The Pilgrim's Progress*

1628-1688. Served in the Parliamentary Army.

Converted and began preaching during the interregnum (Cromwell)

12 years in prison after the restoration of Charles II

The Pilgrim's Progress

b) George Whitefield

Born 1714, Gloucester.

Preached that people needed new birth! e.g. Kingswood Colliers, 1739.

John 3:2,3

2 Corinthians 4:4-6

Repentance and Faith

Conversion

Died Sept 29th 1770

John Wesley

Born 17th June 1703.

Oxford 'Holy Club': 'Methodists'.

1736-38 Georgia mission: failure.

Aldersgate St. Experience 1738

Preached need for new birth

Holiness

Methodism: organising a movement.

Died 1791

Arminianism
Perfectionism
Experientialism

Evangelicalism: A very wide movement

The effect on England

The effect on the World

3. The issue: What is real faith?

a) The faith *which* we believe

The issue of the 16th and 17th Century.

We must believe the right things.

So some errors are **errors *which destroy the gospel***

Galatians 1:6-9

The Christian Union needs to be inclusive of all Christians, no matter what denomination.

You should pray to the saints to help you resist temptation.

Many Christians today don't think the Bible is the literal word of God.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe the Bible and trust in Jesus – so they're Christians too.

b) The faith *with which* we believe

Here is the emphasis of Evangelicalism: What makes faith real?

Not only assent but trust in Christ

Faith must exist in the heart: we need to *love* God and *lean on* Christ.

Trust in Christ must result in a transformed life

→ 18th/19th century social reform almost all sprang from this.

Some errors are **errors *irrelevant to the gospel***.

Romans 14:1-4

That's not a proper church – they have drums!

That's not a proper church – they have an organ and a choir!

He's a real Christian – he had a deep experience of conversion five years ago.

Of course he's a Christian, he goes to church every week.

You can't take the Lord's Supper in our church unless you're an Anglican/Baptist/Presbyterian.

c) But the long-term consequences ...

The gospel and the church?

The freedom and ability of the human will?

The existence of a second, higher experience of the Spirit?

The primacy of experience?

Where is Methodism today?

Some errors are ***errors which undermine the gospel.***

How should we relate to...

Conservative Roman Catholics, who affirm all we do but also pray to Mary to intercede for them?

Charismatics, who believe that God speaks in prophecies today?

The Church of Scotland, which is Presbyterian and has affirmed that 'gay marriage' is acceptable?

Some Anglicans, who have a strong experience of God's grace and are hazy about the authority of Scripture?