

# CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS: A SHORT TOUR THROUGH THE LOVELY AND DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHO SAY WE WORSHIP JESUS



## WEEK 5: WESLEYAN TRADITIONS

### Bible Roots

Micah 6:8	Isaiah 56:6-8	Galatians 3:27-28
Jeremiah 1:4-5	Matthew 25:31-40	James 1:13-15

If you were to start from these verses and say what the Church should be like, what would be most important to your Church?

### Important Dates

- 1729-35: John and Charles Wesley set up “Holiness Clubs” at Oxford, where they're mocked as being “Methodist” because of their strict methods of spiritual growth
- 1735-36: John and Charles Wesley meet and are impressed by Moravians on their way to missionary work in Georgia; mission in Savannah flops
- 1739: John Wesley starts to commission lay “field preachers” to go to the poor and the criminals with the Gospel
- 1840: Northern and Southern Methodists separate ways over slavery
- 1968: Methodists of German and English descent merge to form the United Methodists, the largest Wesleyan body in America

### Ways that the Methodists Differ from Us

- Rather than letting congregations hire and dismiss preachers, Methodist bishops assign Methodist pastors to locations, and when that happens, the ministers and their families must go.
- Instead of Elders and Deacons as local ultimate authorities, Methodists, like the Anglicans, have bishops to resolve conflicts over teachings.
- Unlike our churches, which baptize only confessing believers, Methodist churches baptize infants as well as converts.

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