

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



WEEK 7: PEACE CHURCHES

Bible Roots

Exodus 14:13-14	Hosea 6:6	Romans 12:16-20
Jeremiah 29:7	Matthew 5:38-40	1 John 2:27

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

- 1532-35: In the wake of the disastrous revolt at Münster in Germany, followers of Menno Simons begin the peace-church movement eventually named the Mennonites, a movement persecuted by Protestant and Catholic alike because of their refusal to submit to episcopal authorities.
- 1647: George Fox begins his preaching career that will eventually result in the beginning of the Quakers.
- 1681: King Charles II of England grants Quaker leader William Penn a gigantic parcel of land in the Americas, which eventually becomes Pennsylvania.
- 1693: Jacob Amman begins a Mennonite reform movement in Switzerland that eventually becomes the Amish.
- 1941: United States government establishes the Civilian Public Service to give Peace-church members something to do when they get drafted

Ways that the Peace Churches Differ from Us

- Although these traditions, because of their different regional histories, have wildly different worship styles, all of them agree that the waging of wars and the enforcement of civil law are valid pursuits for “the world” but not for Christians. Therefore all of them have at some point been called “pacifist” churches.
- Some (not all) Quaker Churches practice Unprogrammed Worship, in which there is no order of song and nobody is scheduled to preach. Instead, service proceeds as the Spirit leads someone to start a song, share a Scripture, or otherwise do something to edify the community.
- Unlike our churches, which emphasizes Baptism and Communion strongly, some of these traditions do not baptize with water or dedicate any of their worship time to eating and drinking.

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