



from
CHRIST to
CHRISTENDOM

Part 1: The Era of the Apostles

PART 2: THE NEXT GENERATION

Part 3: THE PLOT TWIST OF CONSTANTINE

Two thousand years ago God started a revolt against the religion He started. So don't ever put it past God to cause a groundswell movement against churches and Christian institutions that bear His name.

~ *Erwin McManus*

It may sound strange to say, but I feel sorry for Jesus, sorry for the way we've dumbed down, domesticated, regimented, or even ruined what he started.

~ *Brian McLaren*

Church history exposes repeatedly the gap between the ideal as exemplified in the teachings of Jesus and the way Christians have lived and actually behaved.

~ *Charles Kimball*

The Christian church has left a legacy, a worldview, that fosters sexism, racism, the intolerance of difference, and the desecration of the natural environment. The Church, throughout much of its history, has demonstrated a disregard for human freedom and dignity. It has attempted to control, contain, and confine spirituality, the relationship between an individual and God. As a result, Christianity has helped to create a society in which people are alienated not only from each other but also from the divine.

~ *Helen Ellerbe*

Jesus called his followers not to conform to the nominal church, but rather to be a truly Christian community distinct in its life and practice from the religious establishment.

~ *John Stott*

It is evident that early church got some things right and some things wrong. But their heart was dedicated to Christ's way of love with an admirable passion

~ *Robert Bilmont*

See how these Christians love one another!

~ *Pagan response to the early church*

Let come on me fire and cross and conflicts with wild beasts, wrenching of bones, mangling of limbs... only let me reach Jesus Christ.

~ *Ignatius, 107 CE, before being slain by animals in the Coliseum*

We are beheaded, we are crucified, thrown to wild beasts, burned and put to every kind of torture. Everyone sees it. But, the more all this happens, the more numerous become those who believe through the name of Jesus.

~ *Justin Martyr (150 CE)*

She [the Church] is the entrance to life; all the others are thieves and robbers.

~ *Irenaeus of Lyons (130-202 CE):*

Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, they will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

~ **Jesus**