

Let no one in any way deceive you [regarding the return of Christ], for it will not come unless the **falling away** comes first... (2 Thess 2:3)

At that time many will **fall away** and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

(Matt 24:10–12)

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will **fall away from the faith**, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

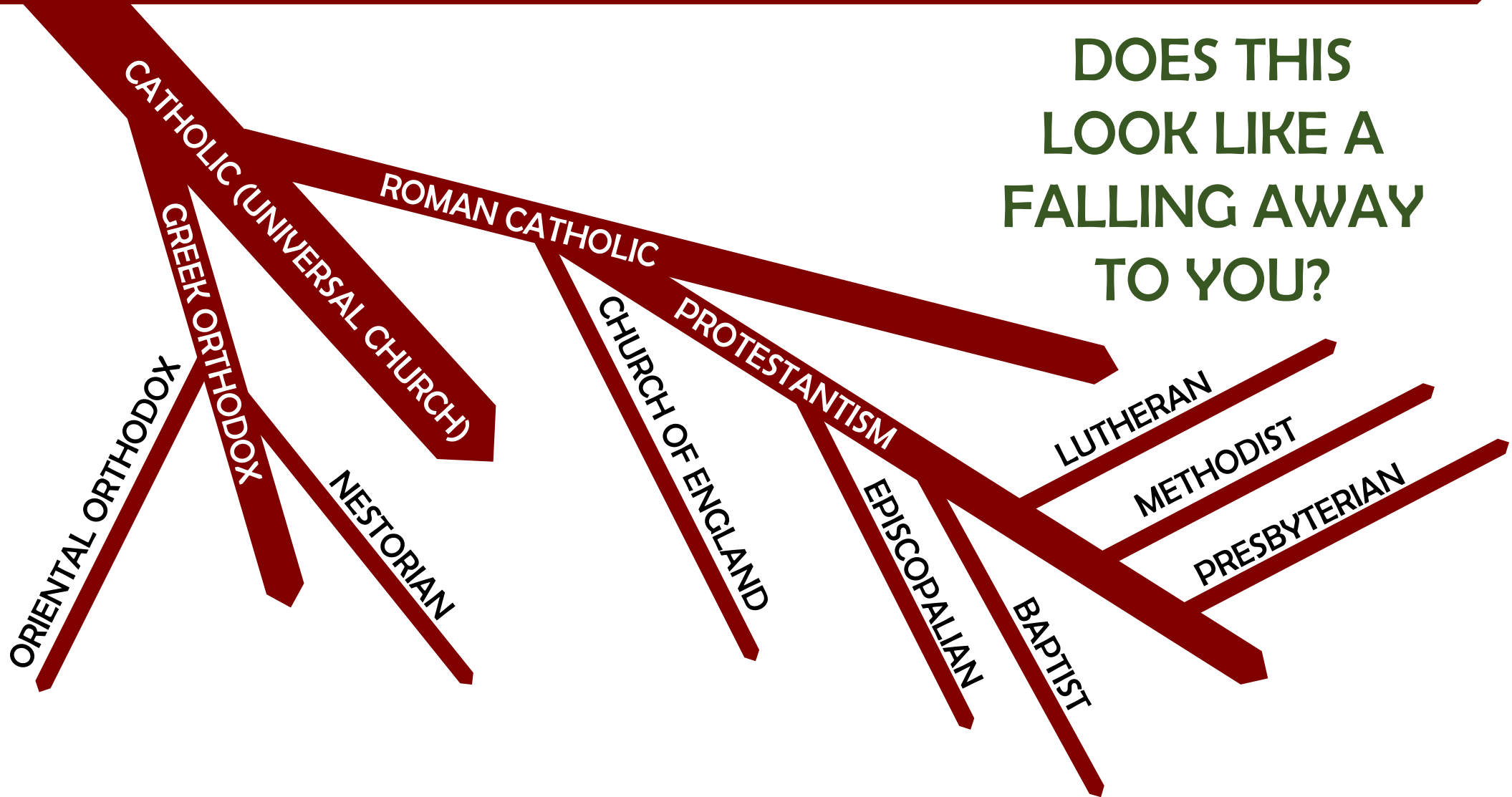
(1 Tim 4:1–3)

And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. **For many deceivers have gone out** into the world... (2 Jn 6–7)

## THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:4–6)

DOES THIS  
LOOK LIKE A  
FALLING AWAY  
TO YOU?



**JESUS WARNED**

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**JOHN WARNED**

And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. **For many deceivers have gone out into the world...** (2 Jn 6–7)

**PETER WARNED**

But false prophets also arose among the people, **just as there will also be false teachers among you**, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. (2 Pet 2:1)

**PAUL WARNED**

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves **teachers in accordance to their own desires**, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. (2 Tim 4:3–4)

**JUDE WARNED**

I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For **certain persons have crept in unnoticed**, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (Jude 3–4)

# SO HOW DID WE GET HERE? HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

## 1. SATAN HAS GREAT POWER TO INFLUENCE AND TEMPT

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore **it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves** as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds. (2 Cor 11:13–15)

## 2. MOST SOIL REJECTS THE SEED OF THE WORD OVER TIME

In the parable of the soil, only one **never** believes and only one **always** believes (see Luke 8)

## 3. IT TAKES GREAT COMMITMENT TO NOT GIVE IN TO AN EASIER LIFE

Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and **there are few who find it.** (Matt 7:13–14)

## 4. THE EXCLUSIVE NATURE OF CHRIST IS OFFENSIVE AND HARD TO PREACH

Then the disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?” But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.” (Matt 15:12–14)

# SO HOW DID WE GET HERE? HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

In regard to their Creed Book —  
The Discipline of the Methodist Church they say:

*“We have expected that the Discipline  
would be administered, not merely as a  
legal document, but as a  
revelation of the Holy Spirit  
working in and through our people.”*

...DISCIPLINE OF THE  
METHODIST CHURCH,  
page 1, paragraph 3

# SO HOW DID WE GET HERE? HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

"I believe that the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, is the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth, that he is the supreme visible head of the whole Church, and that **he teaches infallibly** what we must believe and do to be saved."

*Wm. J. Cogan; A Catechism For Adults, ACTA  
Publications, Chicago, pg160*

# SO HOW DID WE GET HERE? HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

*Hiscox* STANDARD MANUAL FOR BAPTIST CHURCHES

**“It is most likely that in the apostolic age** when there was but ‘one Lord, one faith and one baptism,’ & no differing denominations existed, the baptism of a convert, by that very act, constituted him a member of the church, and at once endowed him with all the rights & privileges of full membership. In that sense, ‘baptism was the door into the church.’

and while the churches are desirous of receiving members, they are wary and cautious that they do not receive unworthy persons. The churches therefore have candidates come before them, make their statement, give their ‘experience’, and then their reception is **decided by a vote of the members.”**

# SO HOW DID WE GET HERE? HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

"If you were raised on a version of **Christianity that relied on the Bible** as the foundation of faith, a version that was eventually dismantled by academia or the realities of life, **maybe it's time for you to change your mind** about Jesus..."

"Maybe it's time for you to consider the version of Christianity that relies on the event of the resurrection of Jesus as its foundation. If you gave up your faith because of something about or in the Bible, maybe you gave up unnecessarily."

*- Andy Stanley, North Point Community Church*



# 5 facts on how Americans view the Bible and other religious texts

*By Abigail Geiger*

*Pew Research Foundation*

*Apr. 14, 2017*

**39%** of professed Christians say they believe the Bible is the word of God

**36%** say it should not be taken literally

**18%** say it is a book written by men, not by God

**42%** of professed Christians say reading the Bible or other religious material is an essential part of being a Christian

**37%** say it is important but not essential

**21%** say it is not important at all

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only **there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.**

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! (Gal 1:6–9)