



## Three Major Kinds of Christian Churches

Since Christianity has come down through two thousand years of history, it has divided into many churches or denominations. The three major types are “succession churches,” “Protestant churches,” and “Restoration churches.”

1. **Succession churches** claim to have been started by Christ Himself and to have come down through two thousand years without any break in authority. There are several of these, including the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Egyptian Coptic churches.

2. **Protestant or reform churches** are those who believe that there was an apostasy during the Dark Ages in which the Roman Catholic Church introduced false teachings. They *protested* the Catholic beliefs and tried to *reform* that church. Failing this, they started new churches. The churches shown on the chart on the front of this card are of this type.

3. **Restoration churches** believe that men could not reform Christianity, but that the apostasy was so complete during the Dark Ages that Christ had to *restore* the New Testament Church and its authority—and that He did this in 1830 through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

It should be noted that the name of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints does not appear on the chart. That is because the RLDS Church is not a reformed or Protestant church. It did not descend from the Catholic Church, but was restored directly by Christ.

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