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History of Christianity
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Gonzalez Chapter 7 5-3-1

Questions:

1. What distinguishes the first Puritans from the more modern definition?
2. According to Gonzalez, what were all these wars fueled by?
3. How did strict orthodoxy affect the growth of rationalism?
4. How was the United States influenced by what happened in Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries?
5. What are the origins of Methodism?

Answers:

1. The first Puritans were seeking ‘accretions’ and ‘superstitions’ to be purged from the Roman Catholic church (78), while the modern Puritans focused more on individual moral purity.
2. Catholics, Lutherans, and Reformed believers all held a rigid spirit of orthodoxy, unwilling to stray from any small detail in the doctrine. Instead of discussion they resorted to war.
3. Rationalism was growing at the time as a result of the negative impacts of the harsh orthodoxy many held. The quest for truth became connected to mathematics and the Encyclopedists. Despite philosophers’ critique of this movement, many still held that Christianity must be rational in order to be viable.
4. The high level of conflict and disagreement led to many people leaving their church or their country to go to a place where they could freely hold to the theological points of the gospel that they believed were the most important.
5. Founded in the church of England in the early 1600s by John and Charles Wesley, it focused on “personal faith encouraged by small groups” (81). It later became independent from the church of England and spread to the United States where it created deep roots.

Terms:

1. *Jansenism*: most powerful of the debates within Catholicism. Jansenius, its namesake, returned to Augustine’s doctrine of free grace and predestination- clashing with the papal authority regularly.
2. *Assembly of Westminster*: In England, King Charles I wanted to disband Parliament, which was refusing to give the king taxes until the church looked more presbyterian. Parliament called the Assembly, and they created the Confession of Westminster in 1647, and later defeated and executed Charles I.
3. *Pietism*: Doctrine and belief that combined biblical teaching with a personal focus on piety and holiness.

Summary:

The 17th and 18th centuries in the church were characterized by mass division and war all throughout Europe and into the rest of the world. Religious tolerance came and went, and many people left to start their own church because of strict orthodoxy, war, or doctrinal inflexibility. Despite the division, this time also paved the way for the birth of America and the Great Awakening in the 18th century.