

13—A Great Awakening

“The Story of the Church”

Pastor Mike Cooke

1. **George Fox (1624-1691)**

- A. Mystical Puritan—lower class family in Northern England
 - 1) 1647 had first “opening” experience (conversion)
 - 2) 1648 had “flaming sword” experience (sanctification)
- B. Believed he was returning to the early church
- C. Women were always prominent, rose to speak
 - 1) Margaret Fell (1614-1702) co-founder of the Quakers
 - 2) The Organizing Genius behind Quakerism
 - 3) Wrote, “Women’s Speaking Justified”
- D. Communal discernment of the Holy Spirit
 - 1) Seek consensus in church decisions
 - 2) Every local church is called a “monthly meeting”
 - 3) Oppose war, oaths, slavery, and alcohol

2. **Nicolaus Zinzendorf (1700-1760)**

- A. German Count and Bishop of the Moravian Church
- B. Founded Herrnhut on his estate to house Bohemian Brethren
- C. Sent out the first Protestant missionaries
 - 1) 1731 to Danish West Indies and Greenland
 - 2) 1735 to Savannah, Georgia
 - 3) 1738 to Genadendal in South Africa
- D. Contributed to the rise of “Evangelicism”
 - 1) The authority of the Bible as God’s revelation
 - 2) The centrality of conversion experience in salvation
 - 3) The importance of spreading the message of the gospel

3. **Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)**

- A. Congregationalist (Puritan) ministry in Massachusetts
- B. 1741 preaches “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
- C. During his preaching people experience “bodily effects” of conversion

4. **George Whitfield (1714-1770)**

- A. Itinerant Calvinist preacher in England
- B. 1740 he goes to America preaches a series of Revivals
 - 1) Came to be known as the “First Great Awakening”
 - 2) Could preach to open air audiences without amplification
 - 3) Benjamin Franklin admired and even sponsored him

- C. Mixed record on slavery
 - 1) Championed the legalization of black residency as slaves
 - 2) Campaigned against the cruel treatment of slaves
- D. Regretted the lack of organization at the end of his life
 - 1) Disagreed with Wesley over predestination and slavery
 - 2) In the end turned the ministry over to John and Charles

5. John Wesley (1703-1791)

- A. 1660 Puritanism was crushed by the English Civil War
 - 1) Church of England was toward the rich
 - 2) Child labor, living in slums, victims of alcoholism
- B. Mother Susanna (1669-1742) was his greatest influence
 - 1) Never left her Puritan roots (father was Anglican)
 - 2) Kept the Sabbath, time for devotions, 1 hour with each child
 - 3) John was 15 of 19 children, 10 died before they were 2
 - 4) "An ounce of mother is worth 10 pounds of preaching"
- C. At Oxford, he Charles and George Whitfield formed the "Holy Club"
 - 1) 1728 Ordained as an Anglican priest
- D. 1735 Goes to the Georgia Colony of Savannah as a chaplain
 - 1) Impressed by the Moravian Brethren on the ships journey
 - 2) Returns after two years of failure, depressed and unsaved
 - 3) "I went to America to convert the Indians, but oh, who shall convert me."
- E. 1738 Experiences his "evangelical conversion" listening to Luther
 - 1) "Heart strangely warmed"
 - 2) Anglican ritualist before; Open air evangelist after
- F. Introduced to open-air preaching by Whitfield
 - 1) He developed Methodism to handle all of the new converts
 - 2) By the end of the civil war, it was the dominant religion

6. Wesleyan Theology

- A. Built upon Reformed Theology (Calvinism)
 - 1) Rejected election, "Arminianism of the Heart"
- B. Wesley's Quadrilateral approach to theology
 - 1) Scripture, Reason, Personal Christian experience, Christian tradition
 - 2) Two evaluations: "Is it scriptural? Does it work?"
- C. Separated Justification from Sanctification
 - 1) Justification is what God does for us (forgiveness)
 - 2) Sanctification is what God does in us (holiness)
- D. Great emphasis on Christian "Perfection" and "Holiness"
- E. Systematic programs of discipleship and accountability