

## Church History Chart

This chart on church history begins at the cross of Christ with the years indicated at the top, down the left and across the bottom. The church of sound doctrine is shown by the banner across the top through the Dark Ages into the Renaissance and the period of New Testament restoration.

Seeds of apostasy were sown almost immediately after the cross and moved toward organized digression at the first Ecumenical Council. Other councils are shown by circles within the stream of church digression, which moved to greater power and influence and further from sound doctrine. The solid black strip beginning early on the digression banner shows graphically the embryo and growth of centralized authority which led to the office and power of the pope.

Attention is called to the strip between the power of the pope and the church stream that represents a growth of unrest, out of which came several unsuccessful attempts of doctrinal corrections. These were quickly brought under control by the papal power. This suppressed restless feeling grew to its explosive climax at the Reformation. Successful rebellion against the built-up hierarchy was introduced by Martin Luther. From that beginning a variety of successful protest movements developed, yielding a multitude of denominations, each with an assortment of doctrines influenced by the leaders of the movement and unfortunately, most were borrowed or carried over from what had become known as the Catholic or universal church.

A movement shown by the upward banner of arrows over the year 1800 A.D. sets out what is known as the Restoration. This effort advocated dropping all man-made doctrines, creeds and rules of faith, which segregate one denomination from another, and make a complete return to the church of the New Testament pattern using the Bible only as its guide.

