

Period 6

Modern Denominationalism (1648- 1880)

Lesson 24 Congregationalism

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March 10, 2019

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1. References:

Schaff-Herzog Vol. I pp. 534-541

- Episcopal – Church government is rule by bishops
- Presbyterian – Church Government is rule by elders
- Congregational – Church government is rule by the congregation
- 1592 – “An Act for the Punishment of Persons refusing to come to Church” Purpose was to extinguish Brownists and Seperatists.
- 1648 – Massachusetts Bay Colony

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2. Essential Theory, Belief or Practice:

A. English Congregationalism: 1. That Jesus Christ is the only head of the Church, and that the Word of God is its only statute book.

2. That visible churches are distinct assemblies of godly men gathered out of the world for purely religious purposes, and not to be confounded with the world.

3. That these churches have full power to choose their own officers, and to maintain discipline.

4. That, in respect of their internal management, they are independent of all other churches, and equally independent of state control.

B. Current names of these churches in the United States:

Congregational, United Church of Christ, National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

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3. Principle Characters:

- Robert Browne 1550's – 1633
(Brownists – Seperatists)



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- John Robinson 1576-1625 Pastor of the Pilgrim Fathers in Leyden, Holland





Pieterskerk, Leyden

THE PILGRIMS – IMPORTANT TO THE U.S.

The Pilgrims were a small group, but they and their ideas had a big influence in what was going to be the United States of America. They are seen as the embodiment of the values the U.S. have been built on. Some descendants of the Pilgrims became part of the American elite. Eight presidents, father and son Adams, Zachary Taylor, Ulysses S. Grant, James A. Garfield, Franklin D. Roosevelt and father and son Bush, are direct descendants.

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4. Scriptural Refutation:

- Php. 3:16-17 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. **3:16** Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.
- 2 Thess. 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.
- 1 Tim. 6:3,5 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; v.5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.