

# Methodism

# Methodism

- Roughly 60-80 million members worldwide
- Key leader was itinerant preacher John Wesley
  - Anglican priest who taught at Oxford University
- Stems off of Jacobus Arminius' teachings (who had broke from Calvin)
- Formed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as part of the Awakenings.
- Main US denomination is the United Methodist Church
  
- With thanks to Pastor Ryan Schreckenghaust, Summit Church, Lee's Summit
- Around 60 Methodist churches across Kansas City
- Stewartville United Methodist Church – with thanks to Pastor Wane Souhrada

# Material Principle

## LCMS

- Justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ

## Methodist

- Justification by grace through faith in Jesus Christ
  - Personal religious experience (conversion) climaxing in perfection
  - Perfected in Love
  - A beckoning spark

# Formal Principle

## LCMS

- Scripture (OT and NT)

## Methodist

- Sufficiency of Scripture
- Wesleyan Quadrilateral:
  - Scripture (primary, though some say not inerrant)
  - Tradition
  - Reason
  - Religious Experience
    - Some see the others as authoritative

# God

LCMS

- Biblical Trinity

Methodist

- Biblical Trinity

# The Person of Jesus

## LCMS

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

## Methodist

- Incarnation
- Both God and man

# The Work of Jesus

## LCMS

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Vicarious Satisfaction/Atonement
- Savior

## Methodist

- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Vicarious Satisfaction/Atonement
- Savior
- Some hold Governmental Theory of Atonement – not at UMC

# Doctrine of Man

## LCMS

- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Original sin
- Bondage of the Will
- Total depravity

## Methodist

- Fallen sinners in need of redemption, of salvation
- Partial depravity – retain free will in spiritual matters
  - Wesley – free will lost in fall, restored supernaturally by Christ
- Concupiscence as inclination to sin



# Salvation/Justification

## LCMS

- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Grace Alone
- Faith Alone

## Methodist

- SCURF –
  - Synergism (Decision/Perfection)
  - Conditional Predestination
  - Unlimited Atonement
  - Resistable Grace
  - Fall from Grace
- Imparted Righteousness
- Full Salvation
- Three Kingdoms
- Anonymous Christianity

# Sacraments

## LCMS

- A means of grace
- Commanded by Christ
- With a visible element
  - Baptism
  - Lord's Supper
  - Absolution

## Methodist

- Some say convey grace (like UMC), others only symbols
  - Baptism
  - Lord's Supper
- Three functions of grace:
  - Prevenient
  - Justifying
  - Sanctifying

# Assurance

## LCMS

- Points you to the means of grace:
  - Baptism
  - Lord's Supper
  - Absolution
- Not based on you or your works, but on God and what He has done for you.

## Methodists

- Pr. Souhrada –
  - God's external promises
- Pr. Schreckenghaust –
  - Talk about their relationship with God
  - An eye on conversion and sanctification

# Church and Ministry

## LCMS

- Church as the Body of Christ
- Visible and invisible church
- Marks of the Church – Preaching and the sacraments
- One divinely instituted office – the Preaching Office or the Office of the Keys
- Auxiliary offices are rooted in the Office

## Methodist

- Church as the Body of Christ
- Connectional Polity – pastors and congregation connected under a supervising body of bishops
- Although bishops are seen as humanly instituted, they have authority.
- Bishops may ordain

# Last Things

## LCMS

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Amillennial

## Methodist

- Life after Death
- Bodily Resurrection
- Varying beliefs on millennialism
  - UMC – realized millennialism
- Final Justification (some)

# Current Cultural Topics

## LCMS

- Role of Women in the Church
- Age of the earth
- Abortion
- In Vitro Fertilization
- Cohabitation
- Same-sex Marriage

## Methodist

- Role of Women in the Church
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# Miscellaneous

## Methodist

- Legalistic Piety – ex: Teetotalism (not the UMC)
- Sanctification is a progression
- Welch's grape juice
- Special General Conference in Spring 2019 to discuss human sexuality. Related to Western Conference's appointment of a bishop in a same-sex relationship.
- Often make the news for something crazy/ridiculous done by one of their clergy.

# Miscellaneous, cont.

## Methodist

- Spawned perfectionist/holiness bodies like the Salvation Army and the Church of the Nazarene
  - Rectoral Theory of Atonement
  - Perfectionism – either by eradication or victorious life
  - Sacraments – symbols only; believer's immersion baptism, memorial meal, immediate grace
  - Salvation Army has a military polity and say the sacraments are not necessary or permanent institutions