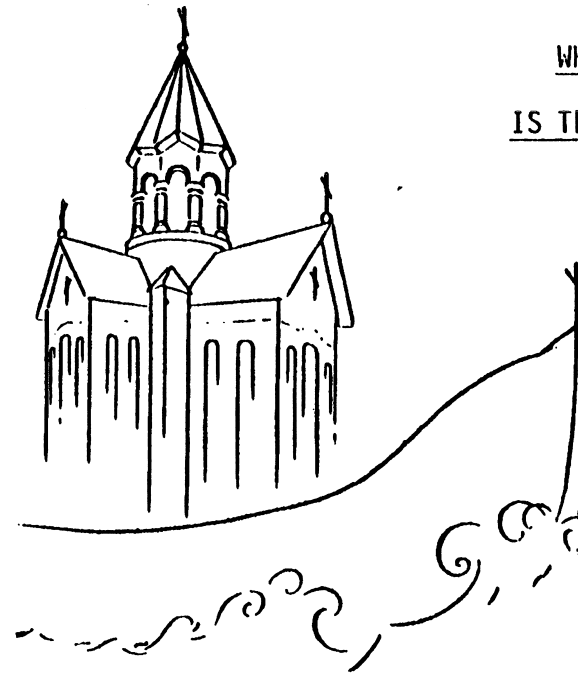


WHERE IN THE WORLD

IS THE ARMENIAN CHURCH ?



WHAT CHURCH DO YOU  
BELONG TO ?

Have you ever been asked the question, "To what church do you belong ?" When you were asked the question, what was your answer ?

If you said, "I belong to the Armenian Church," you were right. But, what

did you say if the person then asked, "The Armenian Church? What is that? Where in the world do you find the Armenian Church?" Were you able to answer then ? Can you answer that question now ?

LET'S LOOK AROUND

If we look around, we can find many "churches". We can find an Armenian Church, a Roman Catholic Church, a Greek Orthodox Church, Baptist churches, Methodist churches, Presbyterian churches, Congregational churches, and so forth. Where did they all come from and how did they come to be.

Of course, the Founder of the Christian Church was none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Himself. He established His Church when He told His Apostles that His Church would be established on the foundation of Himself as "the Christ, the son of the living God." (Matt. 16:16). Our Lord said, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church." (Matt. 16:18). Naturally, the rock is Christ Himself.

Looking around at Christianity today, we find that there are two major groups. One of these is known by the term *EASTERN CHRISTIANITY* and the other by the term *WESTERN CHRISTIANITY*.

## WESTERN CHRISTIANITY

The major representative of Western Christianity is the Roman Catholic Church. For almost 1500 years, from the times of the Apostles until 1520, it was the representative of Christ's Church in the West. However, in 1520, as a result of the activities of Martin Luther, the movement known as Protestantism began. Here in the United States there are over 200 different kinds of Protestants.

## EASTERN CHRISTIANITY

Within Eastern Christianity we find two major families of Churches. While there are basic differences between the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant churches and among the various Protestant churches themselves, the Eastern Christian Churches are in agreement on all essentials.

One of these families of Eastern Christian Churches is called the *GREATER ORTHODOX CHURCHES*. The term *GREATER* really means *LARGER*. It is in this family that we have the Greek Orthodox Church, the Russian Orthodox Church, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and so forth.

The other family of Eastern Christian Churches is called *LESSER ORTHODOX CHURCHES*. In this case, *LESSER* means *SMALLER*. These Churches are also sometimes called the *ORIENTAL ORTHODOX CHURCHES*. It is in this family of Eastern Christian Churches that we find the Armenian Church.

### THE LESSER ORTHODOX CHURCHES

The following are the Lesser Orthodox Churches: 1.) the Armenian Church; 2.) the Ethiopian Church; 3.) the Coptic (Egyptian) Church; 4.) the Indian Church of Malabar; and 5.) the Syrian (Assyrian) Church.

Let's now look at the chart on the next page. It will help us to understand this better. As we see from the chart, the Ethiopian, Coptic, Indian Church, and the Syrian Church are in the very same family of Churches as the Armenian Church.

We can also see that the Greater Orthodox Churches are also very close to the Armenian Church. The Greater Orthodox Churches and the Lesser Orthodox Churches are all *ORTHODOX* Churches. Then comes the Roman Catholic Church. And finally come the Protestant churches. Since there are over 200 different kinds of Protestant churches in the United States, we would have to look at each one individually to see the ones with which we have things in common.

E A S T E R N

W E S T E R N

Lesser Eastern Orthodox Churches	Greater Eastern Orthodox Churches	Roman Catholic Church	Protestant
Armenian Church Ethiopian Church Coptic Church Indian Church of Malabar Syrian Church	Bulgarian Church Greek Church Antiochan Church Serbian Church Rumanian Church Ukrainian Church Russian Church		Baptist Presbyterian Congregational Methodist and so forth

### A COMMON GROUND

The Armenian Church, along with all the Lesser Orthodox Churches, the Greater Orthodox Churches, and the Roman Catholic Church have a very important point in common. That common point is *APOSTOLIC ORIGIN*.

### APOSTOLIC ORIGIN

The term *APOSTOLIC* means that these Churches were established by the direct efforts of those who were chosen and authorized by our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. They were established by Jesus Christ's own chosen APOSTLES.

In the case of the Armenian Church, it was established as a result of the evangelization efforts of the Apostles St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew, from the years 43 to 68 A.D.

### WHICH CHURCH DO YOU BELONG TO ?

The next time someone asks you what church you belong to, you can tell him:

- 1.) I belong to the Armenian Church
- 2.) The Armenian Church is a part of the family of Lesser Eastern Orthodox Churches.
- 3.) My Church was established through the evangelization efforts of two of Jesus Christ's Apostles, St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew
- 4.) My Church has been in continual existence as a living witness to the truth and saving ministry of Jesus Christ for almost 2000 years.

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