

## Why I Am Not A... Methodist

### I. History

#### A. "The Holy Club"

1. Began by students at University of Oxford in England in 1729.
2. Members adhered to a "system" that helped manage their spiritual lives, such as helping the poor, fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays until 3 p.m., and scheduled prayer times.
3. Members included John Wesley (1703-1791), Charles Wesley (1707-1788), and George Whitefield (1714-1770).

#### B. John Wesley

1. 15th of 19 children born to Samuel and Susanna Wesley (only 9 survived infancy)
2. Ordained as a priest by Church of England in 1728
3. Attended a Moravian meeting on May 24, 1738:
  - a) "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."
4. Began open-air preaching in 1739.
5. Developed his Theology sign the "Wesleyan Quadrilateral"
  - a) Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience
6. Even today the writings and theology of Wesley is the guiding hand in the Methodist denomination.
7. At first Wesley and his followers sought only to reform the Anglican church. They attended Methodist meetings in addition to their Anglican church attendance. Doctrinal differences led them to forming a new denomination while keeping many element of the Anglican church.

### II. Sampler of False Doctrines

#### A. Infant Baptism

1. "Understanding the practice as an authentic expression of how God works in our lives, The United Methodist Church strongly advocates the baptism of infants within the faith community: "Because the redeeming love of God, revealed in Jesus Christ, extends to all persons and because Jesus explicitly included the children in his kingdom, the pastor of each charge shall earnestly exhort all Christian parents or guardians to present their children to the Lord in Baptism at an early age" - Book of Discipline, 1992
2. Infants baptized in the Bible = 0
3. Commands to baptize anyone but those that profess Christ (hard for a baby)= 0
4. Acts 8:36-38

#### B. Baptism by Sprinkling or Immersion

5. "United Methodists may baptize by any of the modes used by Christians. Candidates or their parents have the choice of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion; and pastors and congregations should be prepared to honor requests for baptism in any of these modes." - [umc.org](http://umc.org), taken from The United Methodist Book of Worship, 1992.
6. Baptism by sprinkling is unknown in the Bible. The root word for baptism literally means to dip. It is also a picture of Christ death, burial, and resurrection.

#### C. You can lose your salvation

7. "The profession of our faith and growth in holiness are necessary for God's saving grace to continue its work in us, and both of these are things we must do for our love to be genuine and not compelled. We thus remain free to resist God's grace, to revert to spiritual torpor, and possibly experience spiritual death and Hell as its consequence." - [umc.org](http://umc.org)

#### D. Ecclesiastical Hierarchy

8. "As the primary legislative body, General Conference is the only entity with the authority to speak on behalf of the entire United Methodist Church. The General Conference meets every four years to consider the business and mission of the church. An equal number of lay and clergy delegates are elected from United Methodist bodies around the world to decide matters of policy and procedure for the denomination." - [umc.org](http://umc.org)
1. Also has Jurisdictional conferences, Central conferences, Annual conferences, Districts, and local churches.
2. "churches" - used 37 times in New Testament. No mention of higher authority governing local congregations

#### E. Christian Perfectionism

9. "Entire sanctification is a state of perfect love, righteousness and true holiness which every regenerate believer may obtain by being delivered from the power of sin, by loving God with all the heart, soul, mind and strength, and by loving one's neighbor as one's self. Through faith in Jesus Christ this gracious gift may be received in this life both gradually and instantaneously, and should be sought earnestly by every child of God." - [umc.org](http://umc.org), taken from The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2012
10. Philippians 3:12-15