

Who Is The Founder Of Christianity



Who is the Founder of Christianity? Unraveling the Historical Figure

Christianity, a global religion with billions of followers, boasts a rich history and complex theological framework. But at its core lies a simple, yet profound question: who is the founder of Christianity? This isn't a question easily answered with a single name, as the emergence of Christianity was a gradual process involving several key figures. This comprehensive post delves into the historical context, exploring the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and examining his role in establishing the foundations of this influential faith. We will also address common misconceptions and offer a nuanced understanding of Christian origins.

Jesus Christ: The Central Figure of Christianity

The overwhelming consensus, both historically and within Christian theology, points to Jesus of Nazareth as the founder of Christianity. He wasn't the originator of monotheism – belief in one God – as that concept existed long before him within Judaism. However, Jesus's teachings, life, death, and purported resurrection fundamentally reshaped Jewish beliefs and laid the groundwork for a new religious movement.

The Teachings of Jesus: A New Covenant

Jesus's teachings, as recorded in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), emphasized love, compassion, forgiveness, and the Kingdom of God. He presented himself as the Messiah, the long-awaited savior prophesied in the Hebrew Bible. His teachings differed from established Jewish interpretations, advocating for radical inclusivity and challenging the social and religious norms of his time. This revolutionary message formed the core tenets of the emerging Christian faith.

The Significance of Jesus's Death and Resurrection

The crucifixion of Jesus, considered a pivotal event in Christian history, is viewed as an act of atonement for humanity's sins. The belief in his resurrection, central to Christian faith, transformed the small group of his followers into a powerful movement. This belief provided the foundation for the hope of salvation and eternal life, a powerful message that resonated across cultures and societies.

The Apostolic Period: Spreading the Word

After Jesus's death, his apostles, especially Peter and Paul, played a crucial role in disseminating his teachings and establishing early Christian communities. Paul, in particular, is credited with significantly expanding the reach of Christianity through his extensive missionary journeys and writings, which became part of the New Testament. These early followers interpreted and adapted Jesus's message, leading to the development of Christian doctrines and practices.

The Development of Christian Theology

The early centuries of Christianity witnessed a significant evolution of its theological framework. Church councils, debates, and the writings of early church fathers shaped Christian doctrines, defining beliefs about the nature of God, the Trinity, salvation, and the sacraments. This ongoing theological development solidified Christianity's unique identity and theological framework.

Beyond Jesus: The Collective Effort

While Jesus is undeniably the central figure, attributing the founding of Christianity solely to him overlooks the crucial role of his followers in shaping and spreading the faith. The early Christian community, through its interpretations, adaptations, and missionary efforts, played an essential part in establishing Christianity as a distinct religion. They faced persecution, internal disagreements, and external pressures, yet the faith persevered and expanded, eventually becoming a dominant force in the Roman Empire and beyond.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while Jesus Christ is undeniably the central figure and foundational cornerstone of Christianity, the establishment of the religion was a collaborative process involving his apostles, early followers, and subsequent generations of believers. His teachings, death, and resurrection provided the theological and spiritual basis, but the enduring legacy of Christianity is a testament to the collective efforts of those who carried the message forward, adapting and expanding it across centuries and continents. The story of Christianity's founding isn't just about one person; it's a narrative of faith, resilience, and the enduring power of a transformative message.

FAQs

1. Was Jesus the only person who preached monotheism? No, monotheism existed long before Jesus, primarily within Judaism. Jesus's contribution was to reshape and reinterpret existing monotheistic beliefs within a new framework.
2. How did Christianity spread so rapidly? The early adoption of Christianity by the Roman Emperor Constantine played a major role in its spread, alongside the missionary efforts of the apostles and subsequent evangelists. The message of salvation and hope also resonated deeply with diverse populations.
3. What are the main differences between Judaism and Christianity? While both are Abrahamic religions, Christianity centers around the belief in Jesus as the Messiah and son of God, a concept not accepted in Judaism. Key differences also exist in beliefs regarding salvation, the nature of God, and religious practices.
4. Did all early Christians agree on everything? No. The early Christian church faced significant theological debates and internal disagreements about various doctrines and practices, which contributed to the development of different Christian denominations over time.
5. What is the significance of the New Testament in understanding Christianity's founding? The New Testament, containing the Gospels and the letters of Paul and other apostles, provides the primary source for understanding the life and teachings of Jesus and the early development of Christian beliefs and practices. It is considered a foundational text for Christian theology.

who is the founder of christianity: Paul ,

who is the founder of christianity: [Mary, Founder of Christianity](#) Chris Maunder, 2022-04-07
A radical reassessment of the role of Mary the mother of Jesus and other women in the early Church. Despite the commonly held assumption that the Bible says little about the mother of Jesus, there are many indications that Mary preceded and inspired her son in fostering the emergence of a new faith community. In the Gospel of John, Mary instigates Jesus' first miracle, and in all four gospels she is present at the crucifixion, suggesting hers was a place of unparalleled importance in the Christian story. Setting aside presuppositions based on doctrine, Chris Maunder returns to the New Testament to answer the question 'Who was Mary?' He re-examines the virgin conception of Jesus, Mary's contribution to Jesus' ministry, and her central role in the events of the crucifixion and the resurrection. In so doing, Maunder casts a thought-provoking new light on Mary and the women, including Mary Magdalene, who stood alongside her.

who is the founder of christianity: [History of Christianity](#) Paul Johnson, 2012-03-27 First

published in 1976, Paul Johnson's exceptional study of Christianity has been loved and widely hailed for its intensive research, writing, and magnitude—"a tour de force, one of the most ambitious surveys of the history of Christianity ever attempted and perhaps the most radical" (New York Review of Books). In a highly readable companion to books on faith and history, the scholar and author Johnson has illuminated the Christian world and its fascinating history in a way that no other has. Johnson takes off in the year AD 49 with his namesake the apostle Paul. Thus beginning an ambitious quest to paint the centuries since the founding of a little-known 'Jesus Sect', *A History of Christianity* explores to a great degree the evolution of the Western world. With an unbiased and overall optimistic tone, Johnson traces the fantastic scope of the consequent sects of Christianity and the people who followed them. Information drawn from extensive and varied sources from around the world makes this history as credible as it is reliable. Invaluable understanding of the framework of modern Christianity—and its trials and tribulations throughout history—has never before been contained in such a captivating work.

who is the founder of christianity: *Paul, the Founder of Christianity* Yoseop Ra, 2021-12-01 Although many scholars have studied Paul's theology, they have not provided satisfactory interpretation. This is because his genuine epistles were studied as they have been left in the New Testament. Rather, from a redactional point of view, *Paul, the Founder of Christianity* approaches Paul's seven epistles: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, and Philemon. The book reconstructs his life and uncovers the compilation of sixteen short letters into seven epistles. Accordingly, these can be divided according to the chronological order of composition. When the transformation of Paul's theology is traced, one can see a progressive development of Christology, the death of Jesus Christ, redemption and salvation, the Law, the end of world, the spirit of God, and the church of God. As a result, it can be argued that after the Antioch incident, Paul had conflict with the apostles of Jerusalem and founded Christianity for gentiles--an argument that is presented in detail based on the evidence found in Paul's sixteen letters.

who is the founder of christianity: *The Mythmaker* Hyam Maccoby, 1986 The author presents new arguments which support the view that Paul, not Jesus, was the founder of Christianity. He argues that Jesus and also his immediate disciples James and Peter were life-long adherents of Pharisaic Judaism. Paul, however, was not, as he claimed, a native-born Jew of Pharisee upbringing, but came in fact from a Gentile background. He maintains that it was Paul alone who created a new religion by his vision of Jesus as a Divine Saviour who died to save humanity. This concept, which went far beyond the messianic claims of Jesus, was an amalgamation of ideas derived from Hellenistic religion, especially from Gnosticism and the mystery cults. Paul played a devious and adventurous political game with Jesus' followers of the so-called Jerusalem Church, who eventually disowned him. The conclusions of this historical and psychological study will come as a shock to many readers, but it is nevertheless a book which cannot be ignored by anyone concerned with the foundations of our culture and society. -- Book jacket.

who is the founder of christianity: *Paul and Jesus* James D. Tabor, 2012-11-13 In this "compulsively readable exploration of the tangled world of Christian origins" (Publishers Weekly), religious historian James Tabor illuminates the earliest years of Jesus' teachings before Paul shaped them into the religion we know today. This fascinating examination of the earliest years of Christianity reveals how the man we call St. Paul shaped Christianity as we know it today. Historians know almost nothing about the two decades following the crucifixion of Jesus, when his followers regrouped and began to spread his message. During this time Paul joined the movement and began to preach to the gentiles. Using the oldest Christian documents that we have—the letters of Paul—as well as other early Christian sources, historian and scholar James Tabor reconstructs the origins of Christianity. Tabor shows how Paul separated himself from Peter and James to introduce his own version of Christianity, which would continue to develop independently of the message that Jesus, James, and Peter preached. *Paul and Jesus* illuminates the fascinating period of history when Christianity was born out of Judaism.

who is the founder of christianity: *Paul* David Wenham, 1995 David Wenham has returned

with new vigor to the old question of the relationship of Pauline thought to the life and teachings of Jesus -- back cover.

who is the founder of christianity: What Saint Paul Really Said N. T. Wright, 2014-09-05
Based on various lectures given at various places and times.

who is the founder of christianity: A History of the Christian Church Williston Walker, 1918

who is the founder of christianity: Paul The Mind Of The Apostle A N Wilson, 1997 A.N. Wilson makes clear in this gripping narrative that Christianity, without Paul, is quite literally nothing. Jesus, with the layers of scholarship stripped away, is a fervent Jew who will lead his followers into a stricter, purer observance of Judaism; it is Paul who will claim divinity for him, who will transform him into the Messiah, center of an entirely new religion.

who is the founder of christianity: Who Created Christianity? Craig Evans, Aaron W. White, 2020-01-01 Who Created Christianity? is a collection of essays by top international Christian scholars who desire to reinforce the relationship that Paul had with Jesus and Christianity. There is a general sense today among Christians in certain circles that Paul's teachings to the early Christian church are thought to be rogue, even clashing at times with Jesus' words. Yet these essays set out to prove that the tradition that Paul passes on is one received from Jesus, not separate from it. The essays in this volume come from a diverse and international group of scholars. They offer up-to-date studies of the teachings of Paul and how the specific teachings directly relate to the earlier teachings of Jesus. This volume explores with even greater focus than ever before the tradition from which Paul emerges and the specific teachings that are part of this tradition. This collection of essays proposes a complementary work to the work of David Wenham and his thesis that Paul was indeed not the founder of Christianity or the creator of Christian dogma; instead he was a faithful disciple and a conveyer of a prior Christian tradition. Includes essays by well-known Christian scholars such as Craig Blomberg, Alister McGrath, N. T. Wright, Michael Bird, Greg Beale, and more: Paul and Jesus: Issues of Continuity and Discontinuity in Their Discussion by Stanley E. Porter How and Why Paul Invented Christian Theology by N. T. Wright The Origins of Paul's Gospel by Graham H. Twelftree When Paul Met Jesus: How an Idea Continues to Be Lost in History Past and Present by Stanley E. Porter Paul and the Jesus Tradition: An Old Question and Some New Answers by Rainer Riesner Continuity and Development in the Ministries of Jesus and of Paul by Christoph W. Stenschke Paul's Significant Other in the We-Passages by Joan E. Taylor Whose Gospel Is It Anyway? The Glory of Christ in the Prophetic Ministry of Paul according to His My Gospel and Our Gospel by Aaron W. White David Wenham, The Little Apocalypse, Paul--and Silas by Bruce Chilton The Parallels between 1 and 2 Thessalonians against the Background of Ancient Parallel Letters and Speeches by Armin D. Baum Metanoia Jesus, Paul, and the Transformation of the Believing Mind by Alister McGrath You Would Not Believe If You Were Told: Eschatological Unbelief in Early Christian Apologetics by Peter Turnill Paul on Food and Jesus on What Really Defiles: Is There a Connection? by Craig A. Evans Gospel Women Remembered by Sarah Harris Women in the Pauline Epistles: Lessons from the Jesus Tradition by Erin Heim Twelve Theses on Matthew and Paul: The Jewish Gospel and the Apostle to the Gentiles by Michael F. Bird Paul and the Paternoster: Some Mainly Matthew Observations about a Pauline Prayer by Nathan Ridle Hoover The Rediscovery of David Wenham's Rediscovery: Reflections on a Pre-Markan Eschatological Discourse Thirty-Six Years on by Craig Blomberg Portraits of Jesus and Paul through the Lukan Lens by Steve Walton Every Sin That a Person Commits Is Outside the Body (1 Corinthians 6:18b): Paul's Likely Dependence on the Jesus Tradition by John Nolland Jesus Is Lord: The Rhetorical Appropriation of the Teaching of Jesus in 1 Corinthians 5 by Peter Davids The Temple and Anti-Temple at Colossae by Greg Beale Filling up What Is Lacking in Christ's Afflictions: Isaiah's Servant and Servants in Second Temple Judaism and Colossians 1:24 by Holly Beers

who is the founder of christianity: Cambridge History of Christianity: Volume 1, Origins to Constantine Margaret M. Mitchell, Frances M. Young, K. Scott Bowie,

who is the founder of christianity: A New History of Christianity Hans Joachim

Hillerbrand, 2012 Dig into the story of Christianity from its origins to today.

who is the founder of christianity: *The Rise of Christianity* Rodney Stark, 1997-05-09 This fresh, blunt, and highly persuasive account of how the West was won—for Jesus (Newsweek) is now available in paperback. Stark's provocative report challenges conventional wisdom and finds that Christianity's astounding dominance of the Western world arose from its offer of a better, more secure way of life. Compelling reading (Library Journal) that is sure to generate spirited argument (Publishers Weekly), this account of Christianity's remarkable growth within the Roman Empire is the subject of much fanfare. Anyone who has puzzled over Christianity's rise to dominance...must read it. says Yale University's Wayne A. Meeks, for *The Rise of Christianity* makes a compelling case for startling conclusions. Combining his expertise in social science with historical evidence, and his insight into contemporary religion's appeal, Stark finds that early Christianity attracted the privileged rather than the poor, that most early converts were women or marginalized Jews—and ultimately that Christianity was a success because it proved those who joined it with a more appealing, more assuring, happier, and perhaps longer life (Andrew M. Greeley, University of Chicago).

who is the founder of christianity: *Paul, the Founder of Christianity* Gerd Lüdemann, 2002 New Testament scholar Gerd Lüdemann continues his exploration of the life and teachings of Paul in this groundbreaking monograph, which synthesizes the research of his four previous books on Christianity's leading apostle. As the subtitle of the present work makes clear, Lüdemann comes to the conclusion that Paul should be considered not only Christianity's most influential proselytizer but in truth deserves the title of founder of the religion that ostensibly originated with Jesus of Nazareth. Though other scholars have previously made the point that Paul's interpretation of the Christian message actually obscured the original teachings of Jesus, Lüdemann goes further. His painstaking historical research shows that Paul created the major tenets of the Christianity we know today and that his theology - an original synthesis of Hebrew and Greek belief systems - differs significantly from what we now know the historical Jesus to have preached.

who is the founder of christianity: *The Lost History of Christianity* John Philip Jenkins, 2008-10-16 The New York Times bestselling history of early Christianity in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East—from “one of America’s best scholars of religion” (The Economist). In this groundbreaking book, renowned scholar Philip Jenkins explores a vast and forgotten network of the world’s largest and most influential Christian churches that existed to the east of the Roman Empire. These churches and their leaders ruled the Middle East for centuries and became the chief administrators and academics in the new Muslim empire. The author recounts the shocking history of how these churches—those that had the closest link to Jesus and the early church—eventually died. Jenkins offers a new lens through which to view our world today, including the current conflicts in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Without this lost history, we lack an important element for understanding our collective religious past. By understanding the forgotten catastrophe that befell Christianity, we can appreciate the surprising new births that are occurring in our own time, once again making Christianity a true world religion.

who is the founder of christianity: *The Faiths of the Founding Fathers* David L. Holmes, 2006-05-01 It is not uncommon to hear Christians argue that America was founded as a Christian nation. But how true is this claim? In this compact book, David L. Holmes offers a clear, concise and illuminating look at the spiritual beliefs of our founding fathers. He begins with an informative account of the religious culture of the late colonial era, surveying the religious groups in each colony. In particular, he sheds light on the various forms of Deism that flourished in America, highlighting the profound influence this intellectual movement had on the founding generation. Holmes then examines the individual beliefs of a variety of men and women who loom large in our national history. He finds that some, like Martha Washington, Samuel Adams, John Jay, Patrick Henry, and Thomas Jefferson's daughters, held orthodox Christian views. But many of the most influential figures, including Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John and Abigail Adams, Jefferson, James and Dolley Madison, and James Monroe, were believers of a different stripe.

Respectful of Christianity, they admired the ethics of Jesus, and believed that religion could play a beneficial role in society. But they tended to deny the divinity of Christ, and a few seem to have been agnostic about the very existence of God. Although the founding fathers were religious men, Holmes shows that it was a faith quite unlike the Christianity of today's evangelicals. Holmes concludes by examining the role of religion in the lives of the presidents since World War II and by reflecting on the evangelical resurgence that helped fuel the reelection of George W. Bush. An intriguing look at a neglected aspect of our history, the book will appeal to American history buffs as well as to anyone concerned about the role of religion in American culture.

who is the founder of christianity: A Short History of Christianity John Mackinnon Robertson, 1913

who is the founder of christianity: A New History of Early Christianity Charles Freeman, 2009-01-01 Tracing the astonishing transformation that the early Christian church underwent - from sporadic niches of Christian communities surviving in the wake of a horrific crucifixion to sanctioned alliance with the state - Charles Freeman shows how freedom of thought was curtailed by the development of the concept of faith. The imposition of 'correct belief' and an institutional framework that enforced orthodoxy were both consolidating and stifling. Uncovering the church's relationships with Judaism, Gnosticism, Greek philosophy and Greco-Roman society, Freeman offers dramatic new accounts of Paul, the resurrection, and the church fathers and emperors.--BOOK JACKET.

who is the founder of christianity: ANF03. Latin Christianity: Its Founder, Tertullian ,
who is the founder of christianity: The First One Hundred Years of Christianity Udo Schnelle, 2020-06-30 Beginning as a marginal group in Galilee, the movement initiated by Jesus of Nazareth became a world religion within 100 years. Why, among various religious movements, did Christianity succeed? This major work by internationally renowned scholar Udo Schnelle traces the historical, cultural, and theological influences and developments of the early years of the Christian movement. It shows how Christianity provided an intellectual framework, a literature, and socialization among converts that led to its enduring influence. Senior New Testament scholar James Thompson offers a clear, fluent English translation of the successful German edition.

who is the founder of christianity: The Jefferson Bible Thomas Jefferson, 2012-03-02 Jefferson regarded Jesus as a moral guide rather than a divinity. In his unique interpretation of the Bible, he highlights Christ's ethical teachings, discarding the scriptures' supernatural elements, to reflect the deist view of religion.

who is the founder of christianity: *The Acts of the Apostles* P.D. James, 1999-01-01 Acts is the sequel to Luke's gospel and tells the story of Jesus's followers during the 30 years after his death. It describes how the 12 apostles, formerly Jesus's disciples, spread the message of Christianity throughout the Mediterranean against a background of persecution. With an introduction by P.D. James

who is the founder of christianity: *The Cambridge History of Christianity: Volume 4, Christianity in Western Europe, c.1100-c.1500* Miri Rubin, Walter Simons, 2014-07-31 During the early middle ages, Europe developed complex and varied Christian cultures, and from about 1100 secular rulers, competing factions and inspired individuals continued to engender a diverse and ever-changing mix within Christian society. This volume explores the wide range of institutions, practices and experiences associated with the life of European Christians in the later middle ages. The clergy of this period initiated new approaches to the role of priests, bishops and popes, and developed an ambitious project to instruct the laity. For lay people, the practices of parish religion were central, but many sought additional ways to enrich their lives as Christians. Impulses towards reform and renewal periodically swept across Europe, led by charismatic preachers and supported by secular rulers. This book provides accessible accounts of these complex historical processes and entices the reader towards further enquiry.

who is the founder of christianity: *Paul Was Not a Christian* Pamela Eisenbaum, 2009-11-19 Pamela Eisenbaum, an expert on early Christianity, reveals the true nature of the historical Paul in Paul Was Not a Christian. She explores the idea of Paul not as the founder of a new Christian

religion, but as a devout Jew who believed Jesus was the Christ who would unite Jews and Gentiles and fulfill God's universal plan for humanity. Eisenbaum's work in *Paul Was Not a Christian* will have a profound impact on the way many Christians approach evangelism and how to better follow Jesus's—and Paul's—teachings on how to live faithfully today.

who is the founder of christianity: *Creating Christ* James S. Valliant, C. W. Fahy, 2016-09-07 Exhaustively annotated and illustrated, this explosive work of history unearths clues that finally demonstrate the truth about one of the world's great religions: that it was born out of the conflict between the Romans and messianic Jews who fought a bitter war with each other during the 1st Century. The Romans employed a tactic they routinely used to conquer and absorb other nations: they grafted their imperial rule onto the religion of the conquered. After 30 years of research, authors James S. Valliant and C.W. Fahy present irrefutable archeological and textual evidence that proves Christianity was created by Roman Caesars in this book that breaks new ground in Christian scholarship and is destined to change the way the world looks at ancient religions forever. Inherited from a long-past era of tyranny, war and deliberate religious fraud, could Christianity have been created for an entirely different purpose than we have been lead to believe? Praised by scholars like Dead Sea Scrolls translator Robert Eisenman (James the Brother of Jesus), this exhaustive synthesis of historical detective work integrates all of the ancient sources about the earliest Christians and reveals new archeological evidence for the first time. And, despite the fable presented in current bestsellers like Bill O'Reilly's *Killing Jesus*, the evidence presented in *Creating Christ* is irrefutable: Christianity was invented by Roman Emperors. I have rarely encountered a book so original, exciting, accessible and informed on subjects that are of obvious importance to the world and to which I have myself devoted such a large part of my scholarly career studying. In this book they have rendered a startling new understanding of Christianity with a controversial theory of its Roman provenance that is accessible to the layman in a very powerful way. In the process, they present new and comprehensive archeological and iconographic evidence, as well as utilizing the widest and most cutting edge work of other recent scholars, including myself. This is a work of outstanding and original scholarship. Its arguments are a brilliant, profound and thorough integration of the relevant evidence. When they are done, the conclusion is inescapable and obviously profound. Robert Eisenman, Author of *James the Brother of Jesus* and *The New Testament Code* A fascinating and provocative investigative history of ideas, boldly exploring a problem that previous scholarship has not clearly or credibly addressed: how (and why!) the Flavian dynasty wove Christianity into the very fabric of Western civilization. -Mark Riebling, author of *Church of Spies: The Pope's Secret War Against Hitler*

who is the founder of christianity: The Abrahamic Religions Charles L. Cohen, 2020 Connected by their veneration of the One God proclaimed by Abraham, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam share much beyond their origins in the ancient Israel of the Old Testament. This *Very Short Introduction* explores the intertwined histories of these monotheistic religions, from the emergence of Christianity and Islam to the violence of the Crusades and the cultural exchanges of al-Andalus.

who is the founder of christianity: A Brief History of Sunday Gonzalez, Justo L., 2017 In this accessible historical overview of Sunday, noted scholar Justo Gonzalez tells the story of how and why Christians have worshiped on Sunday from the earliest days of the church to the present. After discussing the views and practices relating to Sunday in the ancient church, Gonzalez turns to Constantine and how his policies affected Sunday observances. He then recounts the long process, beginning in the Middle Ages and culminating with Puritanism, whereby Christians came to think of and strictly observe Sunday as the Sabbath. Finally, Gonzalez looks at the current state of things, exploring especially how the explosive growth of the church in the Majority World has affected the observance of Sunday worldwide. Readers of this book will rediscover the joy and excitement of Sunday as early Christians celebrated it and will find fresh, inspiring perspectives on Sunday amid our current culture of indifference and even hostility to Christianity.

who is the founder of christianity: *Christianity* Linda Woodhead, 2014 This is a short, accessible analysis of Christianity that focuses on its social and cultural diversity as well as its

historical dimensions.

who is the founder of christianity: *People of God* Anthony E. Gilles, 2000 The history of Catholicism is the history of Christian faith. Anthony E. Gilles traces its development—from its beginnings in hushed gatherings within the Roman Empire to its current size and influence—in an accessible and enjoyable style. A revised and updated compilation of the history volumes from his best-selling People of God series, this book will help you understand how the Church developed in relation to, or in rebellion against, the larger culture. It details centuries of crucial turning points from the development of apostolic succession to the implementation of the reforms of Vatican II. Complete with maps, timelines and special focus sections on important events and issues, this valuable resource belongs in the collection of every student of Church history.

who is the founder of christianity: *Introduction to World Christian History* Derek Cooper, 2016-06-03 In this brief history of the church from a global perspective, Derek Cooper explores the development of Christianity across time and the continents. Guiding readers to places like Iraq, Ethiopia and India, Scandanavia, Brazil and Oceania, he reveals the fascinating—and often surprising—history of the church.

who is the founder of christianity: *A History of Christianity in Africa* Elizabeth Isichei, 1995 Isichei's thorough study surveys the full breadth of Christianity in Africa, from the early story of Egyptian Christianity to the churches of the Middle Years (1500-1800) to the prolific success of missions throughout the 1900s. This important book fills a conspicuous void of scholarly works on Africa's Christian history. Includes 26 maps.

who is the founder of christianity: *A Little History of Religion* Richard Holloway, 2016-08-23 For curious readers young and old, a rich and colorful history of religion from humanity's earliest days to our own contentious times In an era of hardening religious attitudes and explosive religious violence, this book offers a welcome antidote. Richard Holloway retells the entire history of religion—from the dawn of religious belief to the twenty-first century—with deepest respect and a keen commitment to accuracy. Writing for those with faith and those without, and especially for young readers, he encourages curiosity and tolerance, accentuates nuance and mystery, and calmly restores a sense of the value of faith. Ranging far beyond the major world religions of Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism, Holloway also examines where religious belief comes from, the search for meaning throughout history, today's fascinations with Scientology and creationism, religiously motivated violence, hostilities between religious people and secularists, and more. Holloway proves an empathic yet discerning guide to the enduring significance of faith and its power from ancient times to our own.

who is the founder of christianity: *Africa Study Bible, NLT* , 2017-05-09 The Africa Study Bible brings together 350 contributors from over 50 countries, providing a unique African perspective. It's an all-in-one course in biblical content, theology, history, and culture, with special attention to the African context. Each feature was planned by African leaders to help readers grow strong in Jesus Christ by providing understanding and instruction on how to live a good and righteous life--Publisher.

who is the founder of christianity: *Constantine's Sword* James Carroll, 2002 A rare book that combines searing passion with a subject that has affected all of our lives. Chicago Tribune Novelist, cultural critic, and former priest James Carroll marries history with memoir as he maps the two-thousand-year course of the Church's battle against Judaism and faces the crisis of faith it has sparked in his own life. Fascinating, brave, and sometimes infuriating (Time), this dark history is more than a chronicle of religion. It is the central tragedy of Western civilization, its fault lines reaching deep into our culture to create a deeply felt work (San Francisco Chronicle) as Carroll wrangles with centuries of strife and tragedy to reach a courageous and affecting reckoning with difficult truths.

who is the founder of christianity: *Did America Have a Christian Founding?* Mark David Hall, 2019-10-29 A distinguished professor debunks the assertion that America's Founders were deists who desired the strict separation of church and state and instead shows that their political

ideas were profoundly influenced by their Christian convictions. In 2010, David Mark Hall gave a lecture at the Heritage Foundation entitled Did America Have a Christian Founding? His balanced and thoughtful approach to this controversial question caused a sensation. C-SPAN televised his talk, and an essay based on it has been downloaded more than 300,000 times. In this book, Hall expands upon this essay, making the airtight case that America's Founders were not deists. He explains why and how the Founders' views are absolutely relevant today, showing that they did not create a godless Constitution; that even Jefferson and Madison did not want a high wall separating church and state; that most Founders believed the government should encourage Christianity; and that they embraced a robust understanding of religious liberty for biblical and theological reasons. This compelling and utterly persuasive book will convince skeptics and equip believers and conservatives to defend the idea that Christian thought was crucial to the nation's founding--and that this benefits all of us, whatever our faith (or lack of faith).

who is the founder of christianity: The Resurrection Of Christ Gerd Lüdemann, 2010-06-28 Although the resurrection is the keystone dogma of Christian belief, and Sunday churchgoers rarely if ever think to question it, scholarly research shows with the utmost clarity that from a historical standpoint Jesus was not raised from the dead. In fact, it is almost universally recognized among scholars of New Testament textual criticism that the gospel narratives describing the resurrection appearances are not reliable eyewitness accounts, but expressions of faith written by the first Christian believers long after the death of Jesus. In this thorough exegesis of the primary texts dealing with the resurrection of Jesus, New Testament expert Gerd Lüdemann (University of Göttingen) presents compelling evidence that shows the resurrection was not a historical event and further argues that this development leaves little, if any, basis for Christian faith as presently defined. Beginning with Paul's testimony in 1 Cor. 15: 3-8, in which the apostle declares that Jesus has been raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, Lüdemann systematically evaluates every reference to Jesus' resurrection in the New Testament, as well as apocryphal literature. He examines the purpose of the text writers, the ways in which they reworked tradition, and the historical value of each account. Through this approach, he offers a reconstruction of the probable course of events as well as the circumstances surrounding Jesus' death on the cross, the burial of his body, his reported resurrection on the third day, and subsequent appearances to various disciples. Since the historical evidence leads to the firm conclusion that Jesus' body was not raised from the dead, Lüdemann argues that the origin of the Easter faith must be sought in the visionary experiences of Christianity's two leading apostles. From a modern perspective this leads to the inescapable conclusion that both primary witnesses to Jesus' resurrection, Peter and Paul, were victims of self-deception. In conclusion, he asks whether in light of the nonhistoricity of Jesus' resurrection, thinking people today can legitimately and in good conscience still call themselves Christians. Gerd Lüdemann is a professor of the history and literature of early Christianity at the University of Göttingen, Germany. Professor Lüdemann's published conclusions about Christianity aroused great controversy in his native Germany, where the Confederation of Protestant Churches in Lower Saxony demanded his immediate dismissal from the theological faculty of his university. Despite this threat to his academic freedom, he has retained his post at the university, although the chair he holds was renamed to disassociate him from the training program of German pastors. Lüdemann is also the author of Jesus After 2000 Years, Paul: The Founder of Christianity, and The Resurrection of Christ: A Historical Inquiry.

who is the founder of christianity: The Origin of Paul's Religion John Gresham Machen, 2022-11-13 The Origin of Paul's Religion is intended to deal, from one particular point of view, with the problem of the origin of Christianity. It is an important historical problem not only because of the large place which Christianity has occupied in the medieval and modern world, but also because of certain unique features which even the most unsympathetic and superficial examination must detect in the beginnings of the Christian movement. The problem of the origin of Christianity is also an important practical problem. Rightly or wrongly, Christian experience has ordinarily been connected with one particular view of the origin of the Christian movement; where that view has been

abandoned, the experience has ceased.

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