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Our Family Tree – Methodism

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2 Kings 10:15 (NRSV)

When Jehu left there, he met Jehonadab ... coming to meet him; he greeted him, and said to him, "Is your heart as true to mine as mine is to yours?" Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand."

Matthew 22:34-39 (NIV)

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Introducing John Wesley

- Born, June 17, 1703 – Died, March 2, 1791.
- Parents: Samuel and Susanna Wesley.
- John was the 15th of 19 children. 9 children died as infants.
- His father, Samuel was a priest in the Church of England.
- John was also ordained in the Church of England.
- At first John's faith was based solely on 'head knowledge,' but he desired much more.
- On May 24, 1738, John had a profound experience with the Lord through the Holy Spirit in which he came to have the assurance of his salvation.

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society on Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Martin Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter to 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 my salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sin, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."
-John Wesley, May 24, 1738

- He spent the rest of his life traveling across the British Isles calling people to follow Jesus. It is estimated he rode on horseback 250,000 miles during his ministry.

Wesley's Three Simple Rules for Methodists

- Avoid doing what you know is wrong.
- Do all the good you can to everyone you can.
- Pursue the spiritual disciplines of prayer, worship, scripture reading and fasting.

The Early Methodists Were Known For

- _____

- _____
- _____
- _____

What Do Methodists Believe?

Methodists hold to the essentials of the Christian faith as contained in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

What Do We Value As United Methodist Christians?

1. We value _____.

“Although a difference in opinions or modes of worship may prevent an entire external union, yet need it prevent our union in love? Though we can't think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

-John Wesley, April 2, 1739

2. We value a faith of the _____.

3. We value a _____.

4. We value _____.

5. We value _____.

Prayer

Lord, thank you for your church. Each branch has a beauty all its own. Forgive us for the times when we have looked down on your other children. Forgive us for secretly believing we are your favorites. Help us to learn from our brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations. Help us to love one another. And help us to work together, that we might accomplish your purposes for your church. Bless our friends of other denominations. Help us in humility and love to bless them all and to see them as your beloved children. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sources: *Christianity's Family Tree* by Adam Hamilton; *The works of John Wesley* edited by Albert Outler.