

# American Presbyterianism

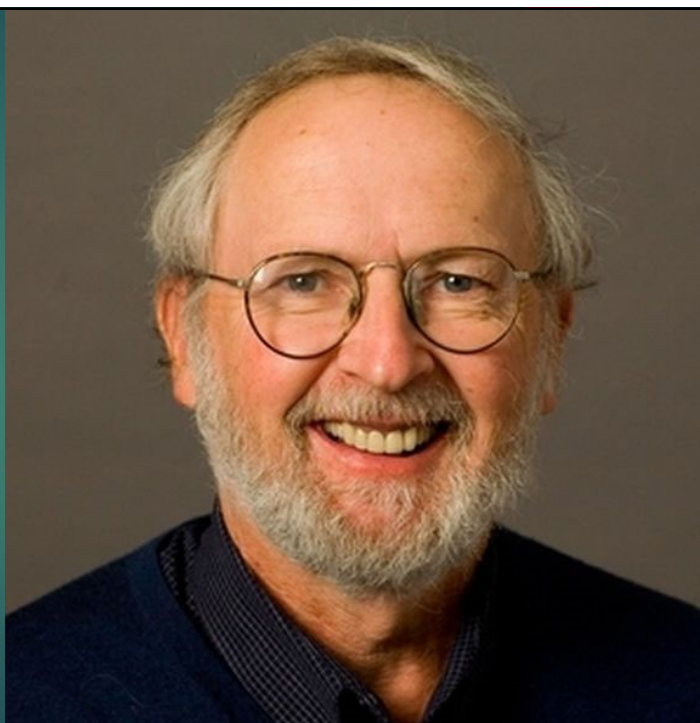
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## Opening Remarks

- ▶ We are creatures of our social context more than we realize.
- ▶ American religion has been dominated by a free market mentality. Americans shed the “old religion” of the state churches in Europe.
- ▶ Presbyterianism in America manifests itself differently than it does in Scotland, for example.



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## Opening Remarks

- ▶ The free market mentality has led to endless denominations.
- ▶ We will view American Presbyterian history through certain individuals.
- ▶ We will see in American religion there is a battle between establishment (mainline) and the free market mentality.



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## Revivalist Tension

- ▶ Did you ever wonder why Presbyterian ministers do not use the word “revival” on a regular basis?
- ▶ Revival in popular culture assumes we are the one in control.
- ▶ I believe we still have this tension even in our current denomination. Are you “churchly,” or a “soul winner”?



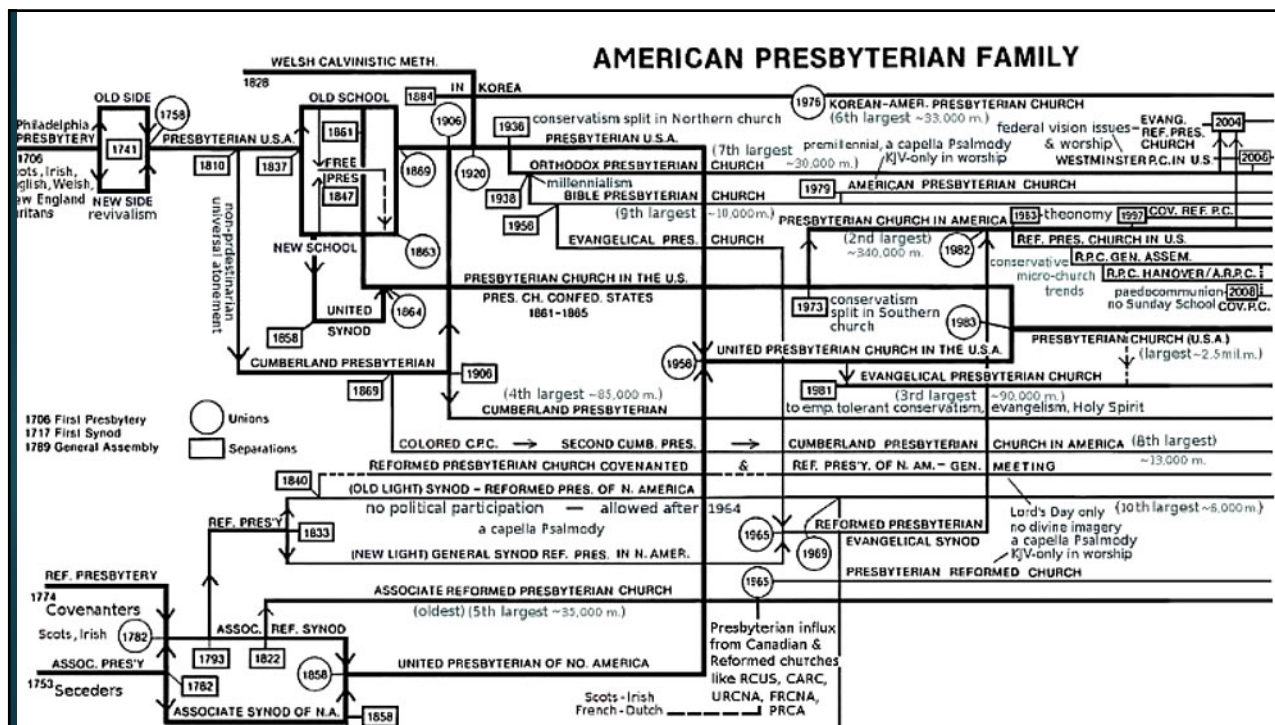
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# Civic Religion

- ▶ American Christianity has always had a strong pull towards moralism.
- ▶ From the beginning, religion and politics are intermixed (Samuel Adams, for example).
- ▶ I believe that Confessional Presbyterians have transcended this strong pull.



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## Colonial Presbyterianism

- ▶ Colonial Presbyterianism has its first major controversy over revivalism.
- ▶ Pro-revivalism people are John Wesley (founder of Methodism), George Whitefield (Anglican), and Jonathan Edwards (Congregationalist/Presbyterian).
- ▶ Jonathan Edwards' famous book, *Religious Affections*, is a pro-revival group of sermons.



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## The Great Awakening

- ▶ Historians argue that American evangelicalism starts with this movement.
- ▶ The revivals happen in the 1730's and 1740's.
- ▶ The Great Awakening is more Calvinistic in its flavor.



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## Jonathan Edwards

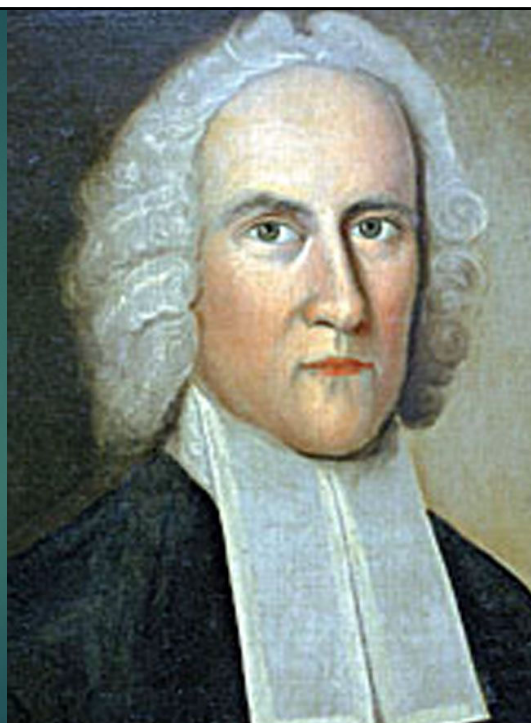
- ▶ Jonathan Edwards lived from 1703-1758.
- ▶ The genre of his work could be labeled “philosophical theology.”
- ▶ However, his main job was primarily preaching. He was an American Puritan.



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## Jonathan Edwards

- ▶ Jonathan Edwards started what was labeled “New Haven Theology” that started at Yale University.
- ▶ New Haven theology ended up battling against what would be called “Princetonian Theology.”
- ▶ Interesting fact: Edwards had ten sisters. He was the only boy. Scholars argue that his personality and interest in love was shaped by this factor.



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