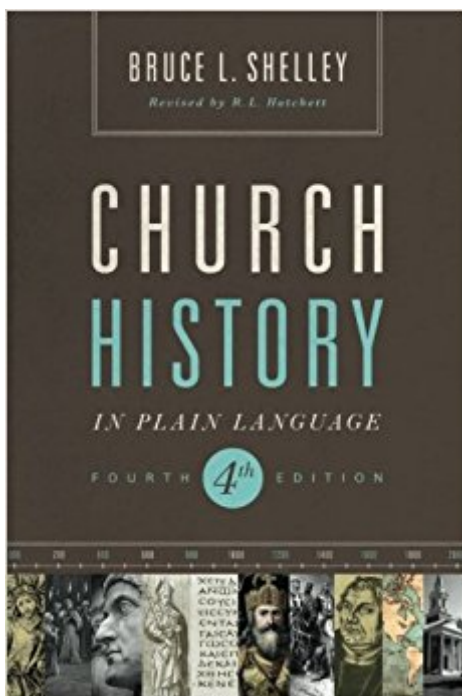


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# Church History In Plain Language: Fourth Edition



## Synopsis

With more than 315,000 copies sold, this is the story of the church for today's readers. The fourth edition of Shelley's classic one-volume history of the church brings the story of Christianity into the twenty-first century. This latest edition of the book takes a close look at the rapid growth of evangelical and Pentecostal Christianity in the southern hemisphere, addresses the decline in traditional mainline denominations, examines the influence of technology on the spread of the gospel, and discusses how Christianity intersects with other religions in countries all over the world. This concise book provides an easy-to-read guide to church history with intellectual substance. The new edition of Church History in Plain Language promises to be the new standard for readable church history. Features include: Includes contemporary developments related to the spread of the gospel Discusses how technology has an impact on how the church worships and grows Covers the explosion of Christianity in the southern hemisphere

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dr. Bruce Shelley was Senior Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Denver Theological Seminary. He held the M.Div. degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. Among his previous publications are "The Church: God's People; Evangelicalism in America;" and "The Cross and the Flame."

I bought the "Updated 2nd Edition" of this book several years ago, as I was really curious to learn

more about church history. Despite growing up in the evangelical church environment, there was a huge gap in my knowledge between what happened after the early church in Acts and the modern church today. I knew vaguely of something called the "Reformation" and that somewhere along the way the Crusades happened. I had no idea why the Crusades occurred, why the Reformation was so important, how the books of the Bible were chosen, why there are so many denominations today, and why there's a giant mosque sitting over the site of the temple in Jerusalem. This book was a fantastic introduction into church history, covering a huge span of time yet maintaining enough detail in each chapter that keeps you wanting to find out more. I'm not normally a reader (averaging maybe 1-3 books per year), but this book had me hooked all the way through it. The author tries to maintain a neutral non-judgemental tone throughout his text, providing a variety of views of how church historians have interpreted events over the years. Of course, recounting history can never truly be an "objective" exercise, but the author does (in my opinion) present his material very thoughtfully without adding too much of his own subjective views. I've since started studying at Bible College and looking into church history more formally. This book was a huge help in giving me a basic framework to structure my learning around now. I highly recommend this book, and personally cannot wait to see what's been updated two editions later.

Hits the nail on the head. Hits everything important, and manages to be broad enough, and detailed enough at the same time. The "Plain Language" is perfect for non-theologians like myself who don't care to learn all the terminology, but want to understand the concepts and history.

The author has used normal American English and I very seldom had to use a dictionary. I particularly enjoy his concentration on trying to capture what believers were thinking and what they were trying to accomplish. He also gives dates and events, but he concentrates on the why the events happened and what the people involved were thinking and trying to solve and why the various denominations came into being. I really enjoyed his explanations.

I learned a lot of fascinating things about Christianity's development throughout its history. Now I know the origin of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, Essenes, Apostles, Glossolalia, Deacon, and even Christians. I especially liked the early period within the Roman empire.

I read this book many years ago and when I saw this updated version I ordered for a Christmas gift. It is what the title says. Church history in plain language. An excellent book to learn about

Christianity from the time of Jesus until now, Highly recommended!!!

This update is very easy to read. The chapters aren't too long, but provide a great deal of information. I'd like to see a wider scope personally, but that wasn't Dr Shelley's purpose. This leaves several threads loose in Christian History, namely the Eastern Church and the roles of women in ministry. I use this as a main textbook and have no serious complaints about it.

If you want to study church history from the death of Christ until the present time this is the book for you. It is really detailed and a great book for bible study. We are using it in our weekly men's Bible study group and we have learned so much about the history of the church. Well worth the money and a good reference book as well.

Shelly's book, is without exception the clearest and most concise history of Christianity. Though one may certainly go deeper , This is the best book for communicating the over arching storyline of what God has done in and through his church.

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