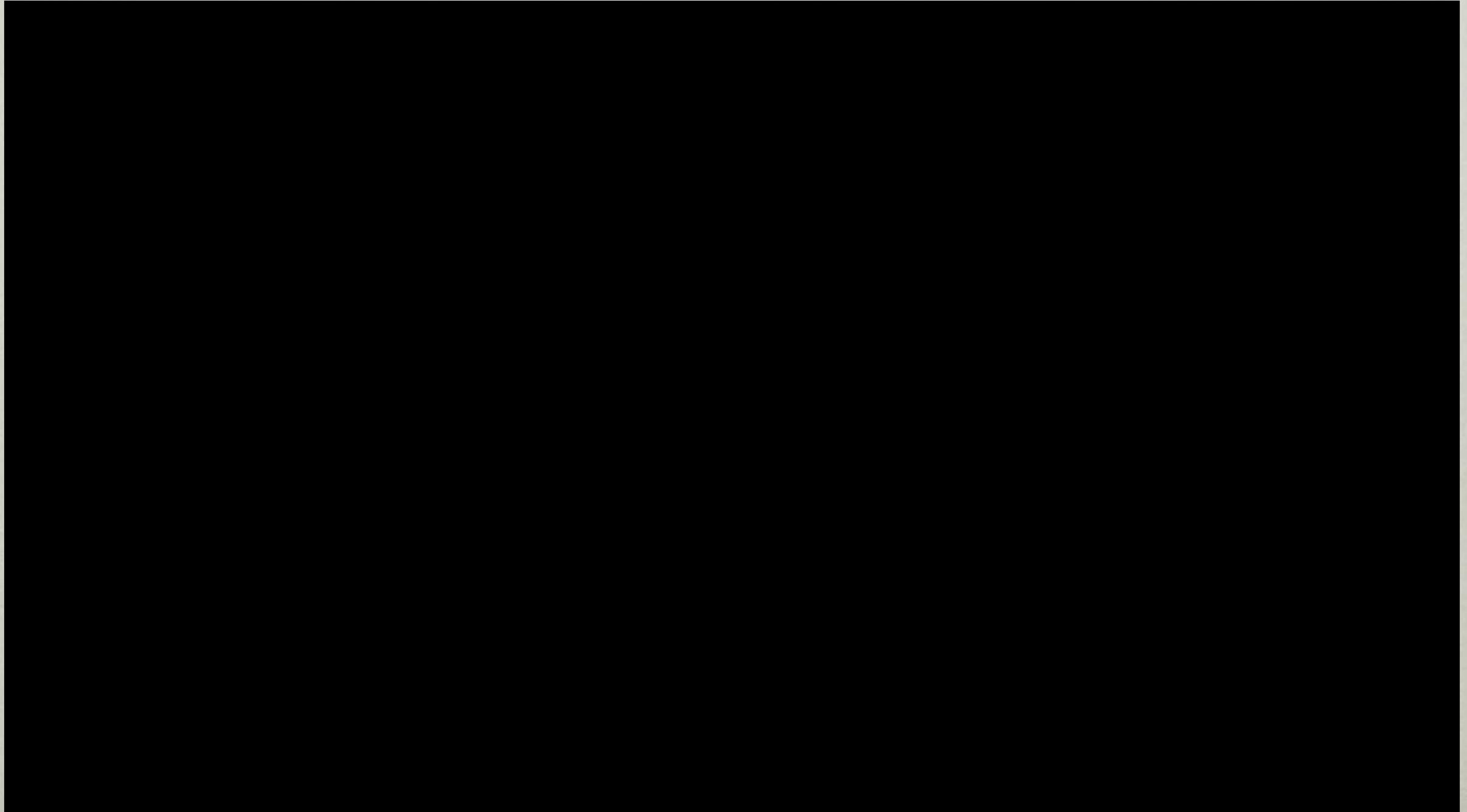


INTERNATIONAL  
CHURCHES OF CHRIST

FORMERLY KNOWN AS  
THE BOSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

# SO, REALLY, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

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# RECRUITMENT

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- [The scene opens in the hall of a bustling college dormitory. It is the week before classes start in the fall, and all the new students are moving in. A hungry freshman is obviously looking around for someone to go to lunch with. A couple of fellow students come over.]
- Older student: Want to go get some lunch?
- Freshman: Yeah, I'm hungry.
- Older student: Great. My friend and I were just headed for the cafeteria.
- [Jump to cafeteria, where the freshman and older students are sitting down with their trays.]
- Older student: John and I were just talking about a party we're going to tonight when we saw you. It's off-campus, at a friend's house. Want to come?
- Freshman: [Obviously delighted] That sounds fun. Thanks!

# HISTORY

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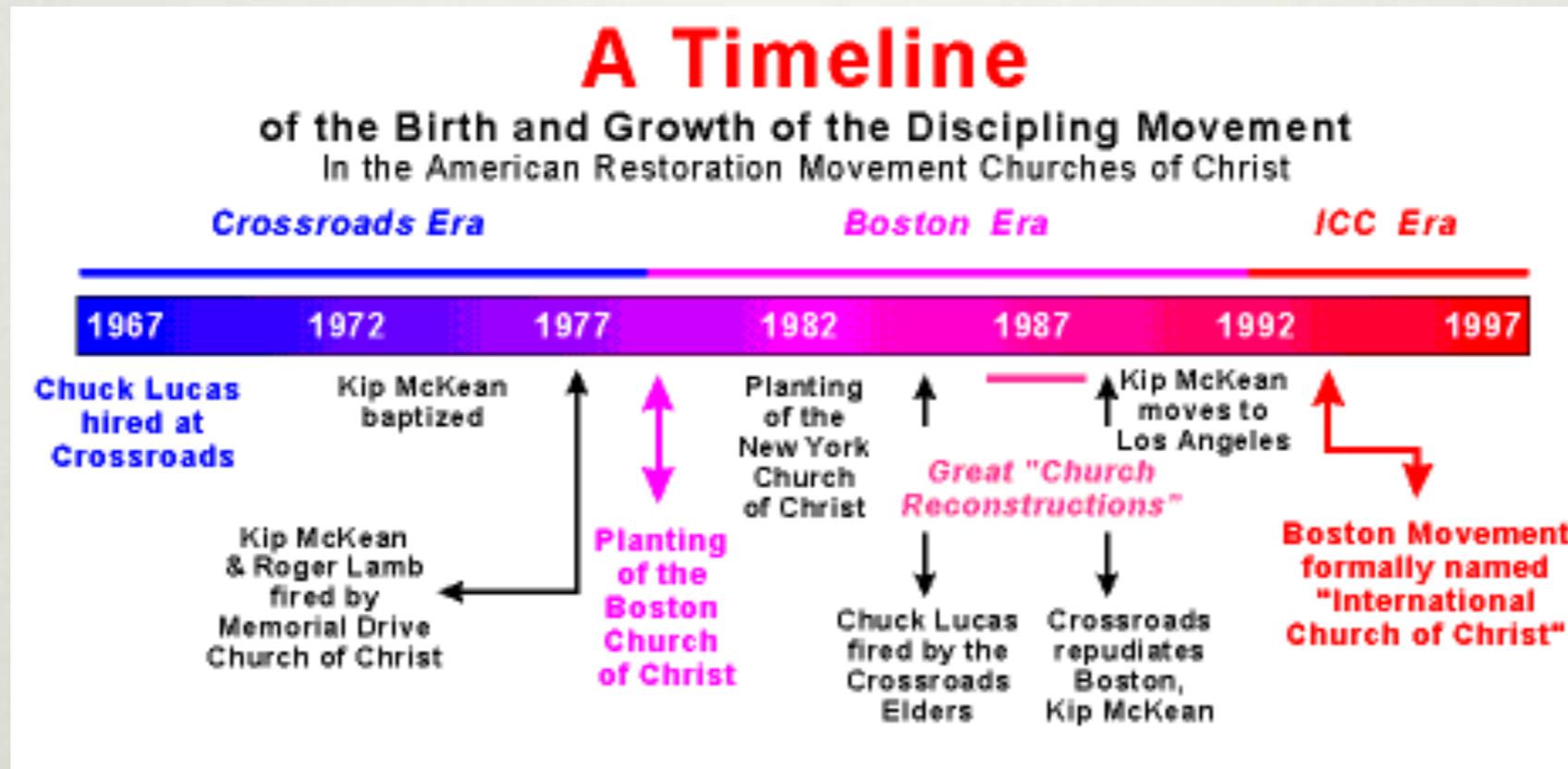
- “Restoration Movement” (early 1800s)
- LDS / Mormons product of that era
- Church of Christ-conservative wing of the Restoration Movement

# INFORMING BACKGROUND

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- “Discipling” movement of the AOG during the 1950s
- To some extent, “Jesus People” revival of the ‘60s & ‘70s

# THE THREE ERAS



- 1967-1979: The Crossroads Era
- 1979-1987: The Boston Era
- 1987-Present: The ICC/ICOC Era

# NOT TO BE CONFUSED (THOUGH QUITE CONFUSING)

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- Mainline Churches of Christ
- ICOC
- UCC

# AUTHORITY

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- “The Bible is the only written message of God inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21)
- Scripture is inspired as are the writers of Scripture. *As such, no private interpretation of the Bible allowed.*
- Who interprets? Kip McKean and ICOC leaders.
- Rejection of all creeds. The Bible alone.

# CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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- In ICC congregations, the evangelist leads. Elders are subordinate to him in fact, if not theory. Many large, old ICC congregations do not even have elders.
- “The evangelist without elders in the congregation is the authority of God in the congregation. The only time he is not to be obeyed is when he calls you to disobey Scripture or disobey your conscience, and even if he calls on you to do something that disobeys your conscience, you still have an obligation to study it out and prayerfully change your opinion so that you can be totally unified.” ~Kip McKean, *Why Do You Resist the Spirit?*, 1987 World Mission Seminar

# OF THEOLOGY & LANGUAGE

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- Utilitarian, results-oriented approach
- Serious theological study a waste of time for most of its members
- McKean's two notable works: *First Principles* Bible study series and *Revolution through Restoration*

# THE DISCIPLER

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- Everyone assigned a personal discipler or mentor (based on Matthew 28:18-20).
- Daily (often several times a day) contact and guidance about *everything*.
- ICC demands total commitment from its members (“disciples”). Confess sin. Emulate.
- Disciplers and other leaders make major decisions in a disciple’s life, including where to go to college, what to major in, what job to take after college, who to date, or even who to marry.
- One-over-One, not One-on-One

# THE DISCIPLER

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- "To not have a discipleship partner is to be rebellious to God and to the leadership of this congregation.... The person that you are discipling must believe, must trust, that you are out for God and their best interest. Because, you see, there is going to be some advice they will not understand. But if they trust that you are out for God and their best interest, they will obey.... They must believe your judgement is better than theirs." ~Kip McKean, Discipleship Partners, 1988 Boston Leadership Conference
- "Ultimately, if we do not trust these people [disciplers], we do not trust God. To the extent that I trust my discipler, I am in reality trusting God." ~Teresa Ferguson, Boston Bulletin, October 22, 1989

# CORE BELIEFS

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- Agrees with traditionally orthodox understanding of the Trinity, though, as stated, rejects any creed which tries to capture the teaching.
- Belief in one true Church. All denominations and sects are sinful.
- Only one ICC church per town for the sake of unity.

# CORE BELIEFS

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- Baptism by immersion only for those who have reached “age of understanding.” Acts 2:38 as proof-text.

# WHO IS SAVED?

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- Due to its insistence on "perfect unity", its rejection of interpretation and ambiguity, and its insistence that all must understand the Holy Scriptures in the same way it does, the ICC believes and teaches that only ICC members are saved. Most ICC members will, if pressed by an outsider, avoid stating this or soften it by insisting that there may be some people who came to the correct conclusions about the Bible outside of the ICC. In practice, though, the ICC believes they are the one and only true Church at present, and that it is highly unlikely, if even possible, for anyone to be saved elsewhere.

# HOW TO EVANGELIZE

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- Understand your own faith and the Bible.
- Reject unbalanced ICOC discipling methods.
- Love and respect those in the ICOC.
- Determine the spiritual condition of one involved in the ICOC.
- Be prepared to minister to those exiting the ICOC.
- Note: [www.4truth.net](http://www.4truth.net) & [www.reveal.org](http://www.reveal.org)

