

We're not the First to Leave the Church System

We're not the first to leave the Church System as it's happened before when others got the revelation.

One such exit were a communitarian group called the Radical Pietists of the 17th Century. These Germans formed communities where they sought to revive the original Christian living as shown in the book of Acts. Jean de Labadie (1610–1674) founded one of these groups in Europe which was known as the Labadists after the founder. Johannes Kelpius (1673–1708) led a communitarian group who went from Germany to the US in 1694.

Wikipedia records this about the movement:

"Radical Pietism is the theological doctrine of Pietism interpreted to the effect that its followers decided to break with denominational Lutheranism, forming separate churches. Such Radical Pietists contrast with Church Pietists, who chose to remain within their denominational settings."

Radical Pietists distinguished between true and false Christianity (usually represented by established churches), which led to their separation from these entities.

Pietism emphasized the need for a "religion of the heart" instead of the head, and was characterized by ethical purity, inward devotion, charity, asceticism, and mysticism. Leadership was empathetic to adherents instead of being strident loyalists to sacramentalism. The Pietistic movement was birthed in Germany through spiritual pioneers who wanted a deeper emotional experience rather than a preset adherence to form (no matter how genuine). They stressed a personal experience of salvation and a continuous openness to new spiritual illumination.

Many of the Radical Pietists were influenced by the writings of Jakob Böhme, Gottfried Arnold, and Philipp Jakob Spener, among others. They taught that personal holiness (piety), spiritual maturity, Bible study, prayer, and fasting were essential towards "feeling the effects" of grace...

*Two other common traits of radical Pietism were their strong endtime expectations, and their breakdown of social barriers. They were very influenced by prophecies gathered and published by John Amos Comenius and Gottfried Arnold...As for the social barriers, in Germany and Sweden the familiar pronomen "thou" ("du") was commonly used among the radical Pietists. They also strongly abandoned class designation and academic degrees. Some of the barriers between men and women were also broken down. Many[quantify] radical pietistic women became well known as writers and prophets, as well as leaders of Philadelphian communities."*¹

The movement in Pennsylvania led to the Third Great Awakening due to its interaction with Puritanism and Presbyterianism.²

Some of its adherents deviated into knowledge and activities that are not considered 'Christian', so the movement doesn't receive widespread historic approval.

One thing to note from this movement is that those who leave the church system today to follow the Lord into a different avenue of relationship with him will be cautioned by friends and the hierarchy that they are heading for trouble. **Do not be put off by these assertions.** The Lord is our Head and he will teach us and watch over us.

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1 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radical_Pietism

2 – en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radical_Pietism