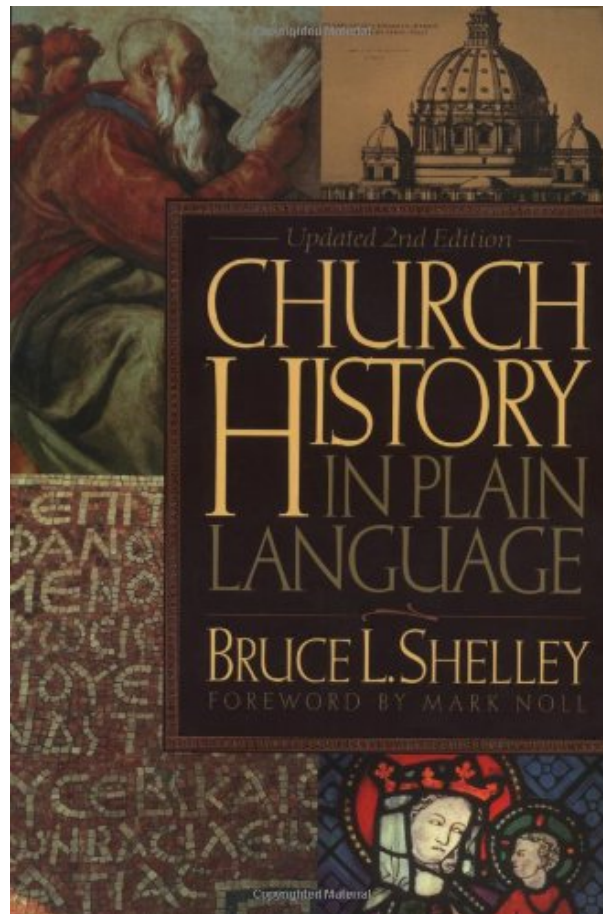
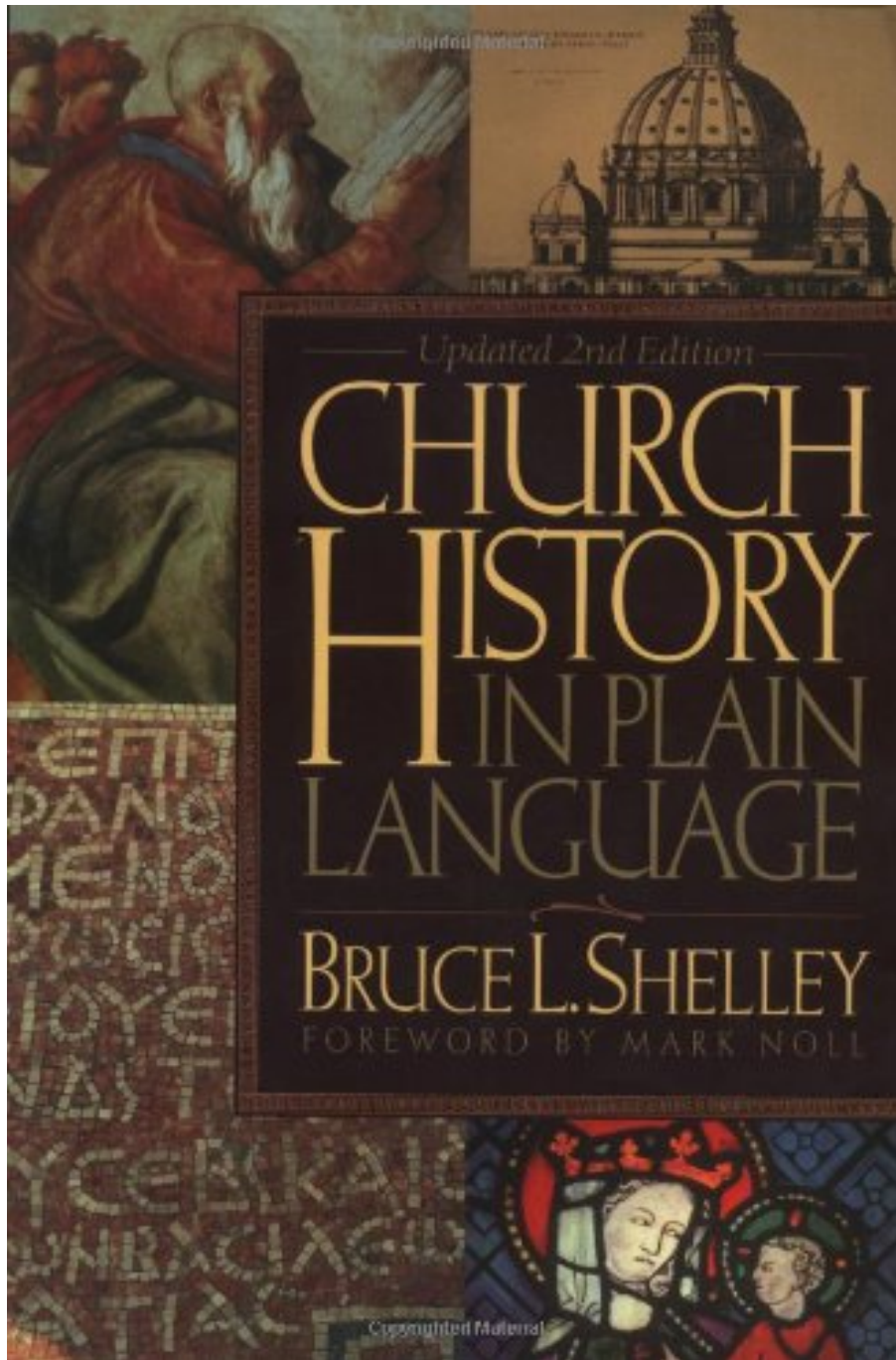


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Dr. Bruce Shelley was Senior Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Denver Theological Seminary. He held the M.Div. degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. Among his previous publications are *The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

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It's about time that someone wrote church history that tells about people, not just about "eras" and "ages." Church History in Plain Language taps the roots of our Christian family tree. It combines authoritative research with a captivating style to bring our heritage home to us.

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Most helpful customer reviews

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

CHURCH HISTORY ROCKS! Couldn't put it down!

By J. Redding

This book is easy to read and captivating. Shelley does a remarkable job of explaining Christianity from it's humble beginning to it's present state in a clear concise manner that isn't bogged down in details. The history is told in story form and you can almost watch it unfold. It can occasionally get confusing because the book doesn't always correspond to a timeline. Rather, it concentrates more on the individual stories and in doing so makes the book much more enjoyable. I enjoyed the way Shelley introduced different ages in church history and presented problems that the church has faced throughout time as well as some issues that we are still coming to grips with today. The personal stories are vivid and captivating and it really does help to explain a lot of rituals and reasons behind a lot of the whys most Christians have today about the church.

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Church History in Plain Language

By Thomas Snyder

Excellent! Both in content and editorial applications. Here is an example of a fine book to purchase from Kindle. I have the printed copy and this Kindle copy is an exact reproduction. Bruce knows his subject well, and truly does explain Church in simple, yet understandable terms. Thanks for a job well done.

Thomas H. Snyder

24 of 28 people found the following review helpful.

Western Church and not the Church History

By Youssef Ramses

My main complaint is that this book is an exclusively "Western Church History" and not a "Church History" as it claims in the title. Even during the time of the Great Ecumenical councils, it focuses mainly on Rome and the Popes. Eastern Orthodoxy which contributed the most to the three first Councils (Nicaea 325, Constantinople 381, and Ephesus 431) that spelled out the main Christian doctrines of both the Catholic and Orthodox Churches gets mentioned only in two chapters and without any details. Regardless of the great role they played, the Oriental Orthodox (Syrians and Indo-Iranian) Christians only get mentioned in very few sentences and only as occasional incidents.

The Coptic Church which was established by Saint Mark himself and which remains as one of the very few Churches that - from its conception and up till today - seldom enjoyed a peaceful time without persecution and consequently was never affected by the state or political influences but held tightly to the early Christian traditions and teachings, is hardly ever mentioned. There were no comments on the many great saints of Christian Orthodoxy nor the Desert Fathers and Mothers who had a great impact on the Church's teachings.

Because of overlapping presentation of events, it is not easy to follow the actual timeline; the author often jumps back and forth in time causing some confusion. Furthermore there was no mention of the differences that separate the three main churches: Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant; Missing such an essential matter in the history of the Church is quite disappointing

If you are looking for a book about "The History of the Western Church", this is a book for you. If you are interested in knowing about the Eastern and/or Orthodox influences in the history of the church, this is not the book for you. I will look for other books to get a better perspective on the cultural vastness of Christianity. When I find one I will edit this review to mention it for you

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