

Christianity's Influence

Jesus' teachings attracted many followers
12 Disciples that He closely taught

Jesus' Message:

- ◆ He was the Messiah the Jews had been waiting for to restore the broken relationship with GOD & bring them to GOD's Kingdom
- ◆ Jews thought it was a physical Kingdom but Jesus spoke of a spiritual and eternal Kingdom, life after physical death
 - ◆ A quality life on earth can be experienced if a person seeks after GOD first and treats others as you would like to be treated

The Message changed people's lives
It spread throughout the Roman Empire by word of mouth
Individuals sharing one on one
Missionaries being sent by local churches to tell others of this Good News

The Romans viewed them as disloyal to the Empire
They would not worship Caesar or other gods
Persecution drove Christians to worship in catacombs & in secret

As the early Christian churches grew they organized themselves
Hierarchy = system of church government
Pope is the bishop of Rome, the head of the church at that time
Bishops oversaw a group of churches in a large area
Priests oversaw local congregations of people
Deacons helped the priests locally
Monks separated themselves from society & lived in a monastery
Monks served the local people