

Characteristics of Progressive Christianity

- Progressive Christians are members (or ex-members) of mainstream churches who are looking for a new way of being Christian. This entails Christianity which has the capacity to evolve and embrace human knowledge and experience in the twenty-first century.
- Progressive Christians value contemporary scholarship. They read the Bible with a contemporary world view, alongside historical, archaeological, scientific and literary developments from recent times. This has led to a thorough-going critique of traditional Christian dogma. Progressive Christians see their ongoing reinterpretation of scripture as following the example of Jesus, who reinterpreted his own scriptures for his own day.
- Progressive Christians regard the death of Jesus as the Roman execution of a popular reformer, recognized as a threat to the system of power shared between Roman and Jewish leaders. They recognize that Jesus was prepared to die for his proclamation of 'the Kingdom of Heaven' as the best possible world on Planet Earth.
- Progressive Christians trace the development of belief in the divinity of Jesus/Christ through the world-view of the Jewish/Greco-Roman world of the first four centuries CE.
- Progressive Christianity believes that by understanding traditional Christian dogma in its historical context, and reinterpreting it so as to put into practice the teachings of Jesus, his followers have the potential to re-form the church to become a catalyst for a harmonious and positive planetary community.
- Progressive Christianity is inclusive in nature, with no discrimination on the basis of age, race, culture, ability, sexuality or gender. This undergirds Progressive Christianity's strong emphasis on bringing justice to the marginalized.
- Progressive Christians explore their relations with people of other faiths, wanting to find harmony in shared values, and peace between people of all major religions. This is a rejection of the old Christian paradigm, whereby triumphalist Christian dogma divided and separated Christians from people of other faiths, and contributed to hostility and outright conflict.