

Early Quaker Foundations

Four Themes and Eight Characteristics

Theme One

1. Mystical

A tendency to reject physical images, sacraments and ceremonies and turn inwards to emphasise the inward/spiritual over the outward/physical in the religious life.

The Turn Inwards

2. Spiritualist

Theme Two

3. Perfectionist

A tendency to reject the 'yet to come' and 'after death' emphasis of mainstream Christianity in favour of an affirmation of the possibility of living in the kingdom of God (at least partially) in the here and now.

The Kingdom's Come

4. Antinomian

Theme Three

5. Charismatic

A tendency to raise the importance of the Holy Spirit over the authority of tradition and scripture, leading to a spiritually empowered and visibly embodied witness.

Spirit Empowered/Embodied

6. Prophetic

Theme Four

7. Primitivist

A tendency to criticise and reject the 'apostate' and 'corrupt' church of the day, and seek inspiration instead by looking back to the purity of the early church and/or looking forward to the promised transformation of all things in the final age.

Looking Back-Looking Forward

8. Apocalyptic