

1 **Christianity in the 19th Century**

2 **Progress**

- The 19th century was characterized by the pursuit of progress.
- It was widely believed that man could improve himself and the world if only he would apply himself to the task.
- Progress was sought through new political and economic systems such as democracy and socialism.
- Science was seen as an important tool of progress.
- The history of the 19th century church can be seen as a record of Christian responses to the idea of progress.

3 **Many Christians sought progress by applying Christian principles to social problems.**

- Particularly in Britain and America, Christian abolitionists worked to end slavery.

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- Reformers worked to improve conditions in places such as jails and mental hospitals.
- Christians worked to help the poor.

5 **Missions**

- The 19th century brought an explosion of mission work to places with no Christian heritage and evangelism at "home."
- Christians grew in the conviction that the gospel must be taken to people who had had no opportunity to hear it.

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- Christians sought to grow and enliven the church in America and Europe by spreading a message of personal conversion.
 - Evangelists often preached to large crowds.
 - Evangelists often appealed to the emotions and encouraged highly emotional religious expression.
 - The printing and distribution of evangelistic literature increased.