

1 **Rationalism continued to challenge orthodox Christianity.**

- While the rationalism of the 18th century had largely opposed Christianity, it was incorporated *into* Christianity by religious liberals of the 19th century.

2

- Liberals often changed or renounced doctrines they considered unreasonable, such as belief in miracles and Christ's deity.
- More and more, the Bible was considered the work of men, and not of God, with no special authority.
- Many liberals held a positive view of man's nature, rejecting the doctrine of the sinful nature.
- The theory of evolution was widely embraced by religious liberals.

3 **Religious liberals addressed social problems with a social gospel.**

- According to this view, salvation is for entire societies as well as (or sometimes even instead of) for individuals.
- Christians must therefore work toward solving a society's problems as a way of bringing salvation to it.

4 **Opposition to Progress**

- Some churches, notably the Catholic Church, actively opposed most pursuit of progress.