

Ecclesiastical history is the scientific investigation and the methodical description of the temporal development of the [Church](#) considered as an institution founded by [Jesus Christ](#) and guided by the [Holy Ghost](#) for the [salvation](#) of [mankind](#).

In a general way the subject matter of history is everything that suffers change owing to its existence in time and space; more particularly, however, it is the genetical or natural development of facts, events, situations, that history contemplates. The principal subject of history is man, since the external changes in his life affect closely his [intellectual](#) interests. Objectively speaking, history is the genetical development of the [human mind](#) and of [human life](#) itself in its various aspects, as it comes before us in series of facts, whether these pertain to [individuals](#), or to the whole [human race](#), or to any of its various groups. Viewed subjectively, history is the apperception and description of this development, and, in the scientific sense, the comprehension of the same set forth in a methodical and systematic manner.

[Read in full](#)