

WHITE CHRISTIAN

- o Justified slavery stating that they were charged with taking care of the lesser animals (including their slaves).
- o A common defense of slavery was that it brought Christianity to the 'heathen'.
- o If a black received the hope of life eternal, should he not willingly give his earthly services in return? Properly taught, religion should make the slave more content with his lot on earth by focusing his attention on the hereafter.
- o Religion helped reconcile many slaves to their unfortunate status, it helped the slave to endure slavery.
- o Whites feared any slave assemblage might result in plotting escape or insurrection and as a result whites restricted slave worship. In 1857 Kentucky Senator George Silvertooth introduced a bill to prohibit blacks from preaching, but it never passed.
- o In some community black churches and black ministers were allowed, but at least two white men had to be present at each meeting/gathering.
- o Kentucky churches "reflected the society of which they were a part.

FOR EXAMPLE

The BAPTIST

- o Were Anti-slavery and it was easier for churches of that denomination to admit slaves to membership than it was for churches more restricted by hierarchical regulations.
- o A number of black ministers became locally well known in Kentucky. John Ashburn, known as "John the Baptist" (1816/1817) was said to preach with great power and energy and had large congregations of whites and blacks.
- o 1854 Landon Ferrel, a free black, was the minister of the largest church in the state - First African Baptist Church in Lexington.