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## **ACKNOWLEDGE THE ROLE OF CHRISTIANITY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICINE**

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The Byzantine civilization, successor to the Greco-Roman heritage, was a hub for caring and healing for 10 centuries in world culture. Byzantine physicians were significantly influenced by the teachings of Hippocrates and Galen, as well as Christian beliefs and practices. The Byzantine period saw significant contributions to medicine, particularly in the integration of Christian values and practices. Monastic hospitals, founded by figures like Anthony the Great and Basil the Great, were crucial in providing healthcare influenced by Christian compassion and charity. Byzantine scholars played a significant role in preserving and translating ancient medical texts, ensuring the continuity of medical knowledge. Christian healing practices, such as prayer and the intercession of saints, were often used alongside medical treatments. Christian ethics, such as compassion and sanctity of life, guided physicians in patient interactions and ethical decision-making. Monasteries in Byzantium served as centers for medical care and education.

The Christian Church believed in healing the sick and founded hospitals, believing illnesses came from God. They respected ancient medical knowledge and encouraged miraculous healing. Between 1000 and 1500, over 700 hospitals were established in England, financed by the Christian Church or wealthy patrons. European doctors began training in universities controlled by the Church, teaching ancient Greeks and Roman medical ideas. The Church saw doctors as predictors of illness symptoms and providing comfort. During the Middle Ages, religious orders like Benedictines and Dominicans significantly contributed to the establishment and functioning of medieval hospitals, with St. Benedict's Rule playing a crucial role.

Christianity has significantly influenced the field of medicine throughout history, from the preservation of knowledge during the Dark Ages to the founding of medical faculties and universities. Christian physicians and scientists have made significant discoveries in fields like surgery, physiology, obstetrics, and immunology, promoting ethical conduct and patient-centered care. They have also addressed public health issues, established institutions, and facilitated missionary work. Christian women, like Florence Nightingale and Elizabeth Blackwell, have also contributed to medical education and nursing.

The three oldest hospitals in the United States, "Pennsylvania Hospital", "New York-Presbyterian Hospital", and "Massachusetts General Hospital", were all started by Christian organizations for charity. In the 1800s, there were no hospitals, and the best doctors only made house calls, leaving the poor without access to medical care. Christians, motivated by Christ's teachings to "care for the least of these", built hospitals where the poor could receive care they could not afford. Harvard University's Massachusetts General Hospital was instigated by John Bartlett, a Christian pastor who served as chaplain for a charity to the poor in Boston. Christian donors provided the bricks and beds, while Christian universities provided the medical faculty and first doctors. These Christian hospitals have contributed a significant fact in the development of modern health care by emphasizing compassion, empathy, and service to others. Christianity has made a significant contribution to modern medicine through its emphasis on compassion, ethics, and service to others.