

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

CHURCH OF CHRIST



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES SUNDAY:

Bible Classes.....9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes.....7 p.m.

Minister, John Keith
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WELCOME!

We of the Cambridge church of Christ
invite you to all our services.

“...the churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16)

THE NON-DENOMINATIONAL NATURE OF THE CHURCH 1 Cor. 1:10-13

INTRODUCTION:

1. Church of Christ is not a “denomination”; she existed *before* denominations.
2. The term implies “divisions” and that is why the term, and the practice fails with regard to Christ’s true church.
 - A. Division seems to be applauded in the denominational world.
 - B. Denominations rely heavily on man-made traditions
3. I propose in this lesson to prove that denominationalism is antagonistic to God’s plan for the church and to Bible truth.

I. DENOMINATIONALISM VS. PLAIN TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE.

- A. Many churches vs. One church
 1. Christ purposed to build one church (Mt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23).
 2. There is One Body and One Church (1 Cor. 12:20; Eph. 4:4).
- B. Founded by men (Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Smith, etc) vs. founded by Christ (Mt. 16:18).
- C. Human heads vs. Christ being the only Head (see above, Eph. 1:22-23).
- D. Human Creeds vs. the Bible as the only creed (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- E. Human names vs. Glorifying God in the name Christian (1 Pet. 4:16).
- F. Preach many gospels vs. one Gospel (Gal. 1:8).
- G. Multiplicity of faiths and baptisms vs. One faith and one baptism (Eph. 4:5).
- H. Following men vs. Following Christ (1 Cor. 1:10-13).
- I. Claiming Doctrine is inconsequential as long as you have love vs. taking heed to doctrine (1 Tim. 4:16).

II. THE RISE OF CATHOLICISM AND DENOMINATIONALISM.

- A. The Church of Christ.
 1. Began around AD. 30 and for a while remained pure and uncorrupted.
 2. Apostasy WAS predicted and began to be fulfilled (Acts 20:29-30; 2 Thess. 2:1-4; 1 Tim. 4:1-3).
- B. These departures led to the Roman Catholic church, circa AD. 606.
- C. Protestant denominations began shortly after Catholic Priest, Martin Luther, nailed his infamous “95 Theses” to the door of the church building in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517.
 1. This was his *protest* of the Catholic church for unscriptural practices, and thus began the *Protestant Reformation*.
 2. Others followed Luther’s lead and denominations protesting the Catholic church sprang up everywhere: Baptists (1607); Methodists (1729); Mormon (1830), etc.
- D. Most historians agree; denominationalism sprang from Catholicism.
 1. The church founded by Christ on Pentecost is neither catholic nor protestant—it was and is THE church.

2. Members are neither Catholic nor Protestant: they are Christians.

III. THE RESTORATION OF PRE-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIANITY.

- A. A Plea began Early in the 19th century.
 1. Men like James O’Kelly, Dr. Abner Jones, Barton W. Stone, Alexander Campbell, et al, advocated leaving humanly devised creeds and consulting only the Holy Scriptures as the only means of ascertaining biblical truth and restoring NT Christianity.
 2. There was no desire to start a new religion; they wanted to return to original Christianity realizing that all the division in the religious world was sinful.
- B. God Hates Division!
 1. In Proverbs 6:19, among the things God hates is “he that soweth discord among the brethren”.
 2. Factions and Sects = works of the flesh – Now the works of the flesh are manifest . . . strife, seditions, heresies (Gal. 5:19-20).
 3. Paul writes that “indignation and wrath” will come upon “them that are contentious and do not obey the truth” (Rom. 2:8).
 4. 2 Pet. 2:1-2.
 5. The result of factions and sectarianism: (Lk. 11:17).
- C. Mark those who cause division (Rom. 16:17-18; 2 John 9-11; Tit. 3:10-11).

IV. BIBLICAL UNITY IS THE ANSWER!

- A. That they all may be one is Us (Jn. 17:21-22).
- B. “[A]ll speak the same thing . . .” (1 Cor. 1:10).
 1. God’s word can be the only basis for unity—anything other than that will fail!
 2. We have to recognize the authority inherent in God’s word and be willing to submit to what it says.
- C. The Divine Standard of unity is exemplified in Scripture (Eph. 4:3-6).

CONCLUSION:

1. Modern ecumenical, denominationalism is NEVER what the Lord had in mind when he purposed the church in eternity past (Eph. 3:8-11).
2. Jesus is the True Vine and Christians are the branches (Jn. 15:5-6).
3. There is salvation in no other name but Christ’s (Acts 4:12).
4. We do not “agree to disagree”, nor do we “go along to get along”. IF it is contrary to the inspired Scriptures then it is wrong.
5. The church of Christ is not a denomination, never was, never can be. If it is, then it is not the church of Christ.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Diann Bachmann, Nellie Bichard, Jerry & Erma Endly, Mike & Karen Grove, Angela Herald, Cathy Jackson, Bruce Johnson, Gary & Debbie Jones, Rick Lambert, and Carol Mitchell.

SHUT-INS:
Nancy Love

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: **Debra Bates-Phillabaum, Weston Boulet** (great-grandson of Shirley Patterson), **Carter Campbell** (John and Mary Smith’s grandson), **Donna Henthorn** (Laura Jamiel’s mother), **Colleen Kiester** (Mo Smith’s sister), **Linda Potts** (Joyce Starrett’s sister-in-law), **Addy Reed, Holly Ross** (Friend of Betsy Cooke), **Mona Stoffer** (Flavil Miller’s daughter), **Anna Thomas** (friend of Rich Mayo) **Bob & Marge Watson**, and remember to pray for **one another**.

Welcome! To our visitors, we are thankful for your presences. Please fill out one of the blue cards and place it in one the collection plates or leave it on the seat. Allow us to answer any questions you may have.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Dean Huprich** had a stage 1 melanoma removed from his chest this past Wednesday
- **Jerry Endly’s** grand-daughter, Erin Lister, had to have her gall bladder removed and, she has an obstruction in her bile duct. She lives in Tulsa, OK.

REMINDERS:

- Today is the last day to contribute to **Marlo (Taylor) Barker** and her husband, Andrew’s wedding gift. See **Fawn Wayble** or **Joyce Starrett**.
- If anyone has family members or friends who are serving, or have served in the military, let **Brenda Warne** know so we can send some cards & encouragement to them—Thanks.

TODAY’S LESSONS

AM: The Non-denominational Nature of the Church (1 Cor. 1:10-13)

PM: The Light of the World (Matt. 5:14-16).

Bible Study	AM Worship	PM Worship	Wednesday	Contribution
36	51	29	33	\$2199