

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

“Attend the Church of Your Choice.”

“Find a Church that Suits Your Needs.”

“One Church is Just as Good as Another.”

Matt. 16:18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” (NKJV)

Matt. 15:13 But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.”

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- Has A Human Origin.
 - Lutheran: Martin Luther
 - Methodist : John Wesley
 - Baptist: John Smyth
- Lord's Church: Divine Origin.



Matt. 16:18 ...on this rock I will build My church...

Zech. 1:16 Therefore thus says the LORD: "I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it," says the LORD of hosts...

- **How could one church be as good as another when the Bible speaks of only one?**

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Follows A Human Creed Book.**

- Luther's Catechisms
- Methodist Discipline
- Baptist Manual

- **Lord's Church: Bible**

Jude 3 ...I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration (God-breathed) of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Pet. 1:3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Started at the Wrong Place & Time.**
 - Lutheran: Germany in 1520
 - Methodist: England in 1739
 - Baptist: Holland in 1607
- **Lord's Church: Jerusalem--Pentecost after Crucifixion**

Zech. 1:16 Therefore thus says the LORD: "I am returning to Jerusalem with mercy; My house shall be built in it..."

Isa. 2:2-3 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains....He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Acts 2; Heb. 1:1-2 – Began in Jerusalem on Day of Pentecost in the Last Days.

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Wears A Human Name.**

- Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, etc.

- **Lord's Church: Wears A Scriptural Name.**

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Phil. 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name.

Isa. 56:5 Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.

Isa. 62:2 ...You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name.

Acts 11:26 ...And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Rom. 16:16 ...The churches of Christ greet you.

Col. 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that **in all things He may have the preeminence.**

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Makes the Lord's Prayer a Mockery.**

John 17:20-21 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Ps. 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

- **How can we be one and have religious unity and be divided into hundreds of religious bodies with hundreds of different beliefs?**

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Make “Walking by the Same Rule” Impossible.**

Phil. 3:15-16 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, **let us walk by the same rule**, let us be of the same mind.

- **Makes the Teaching of Ephesians 4:1-6 of No Value.** (next slide)

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *There is one* body and *one* Spirit, just as you were called in *one* hope of your calling; *one* Lord, *one* faith, *one* baptism; *one* God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.
 - **Note emphasis on unity.**
 - **Note the seven ones.**

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Make Worship Vain.**

Matt. 15:9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

– Add instrument to singing (Eph. 5:19).

– Omit L.S. on 1st Day of Every Week (Acts 20:7).

– Raise funds in unscriptural ways (1 Cor. 16:2).

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Gal 1:6-9** I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Perverts the Organization of the Church.**

- Deacons & no elders
- One-man rule or only one Pastor
- Women Elders, Ministers, Deacons
- Synods, Councils, Conferences, Conventions, etc.

Phil. 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi,
with the bishops and deacons.

Acts 14:23 So when they had appointed elders in every church...

Tit. 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Contradicts Plain Statements of Scripture.**
 - John 14:6 – “I am the way...”
 - Matt. 7:13-14 – narrow way, difficult way, few enter
 - Eph. 5:23-27 – Church is THE bride of Christ.
 - One Groom, Many Brides?????
 - 2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
 - Matt. 16:18 – “I will build my church...”
 - Eph. 4:4 – “There is one body...”

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Perverts the Work of the Church.**
 - You name it, they do it.
- **What is the Work of the Church:**
 1. **Preaching the Gospel** (1 Tim. 3:15; Matt. 28:19)
 2. **Edifying the Saints** (Eph. 4:12; 1 Cor. 14:25)
 3. **Benevolence to Needy Saints** (1 Cor. 16:1-2)
- **Work is Spiritual**

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Rom. 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Wear Religious Titles.**

- Reverend, Father, Rabbi, etc.

Ps 111:9 He has sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever: Holy and **reverend** is his name.

Job 32:21-22 Let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; Nor let me flatter any man. For I do not know how to flatter, Else my Maker would soon take me away.

Matt. 23:8-9 But you, do not be called “Rabbi”; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your **father**; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

- Peter, James, John, Paul, etc.

- Preacher, minister, evangelist, pastor: **NOT** titles but descriptions of the work to be done.

What's Wrong With Denominationalism?

- **Misuse and Pervert Definitions of Bible Words.**
 - **Baptism: purpose and action**
 - **Lord's Supper: a memorial feast, NOT literal body**
 - **Fellowship: Spiritual, NOT Social**
 - **Worship: Homage to God, NOT Entertainment**
- **Invent Their Own "Holy" Words.**
 - Lent, Nuns, Cardinals, Rosary, Easter...
 - Seed Faith, Love Offering
 - The Rapture, The 7 Year Tribulation
 - Have a "Biblical Flavor", But **NOT** Bible Words

Our Plea Is For New Testament Christianity!

Obey the Gospel of Christ

Heb. 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

Lk. 13:3 ...unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Matt. 10:32 Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

1 Jn. 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Our Plea Is For New Testament Christianity!

The Gospel Enacted

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Jesus the Christ
His Death, Burial and Resurrection
For the Sins of Man

The diagram illustrates the Gospel Enacted. It features a central cross with Jesus on it. Below the cross is an open tomb with a stone rolled away, containing a white shroud. To the right, Jesus is shown resurrected, standing on a cloud. Arrows indicate a cycle: 'Death' points to the cross, 'Burial' points to the tomb, and 'Resurrection' points to the resurrected Jesus.

Death

Burial

Resurrection

Seeking for TRUTH

The Gospel Re-enacted in Baptism (Obeying The Gospel)

Romans 6:3-4

In Baptism
We Repent of Sin and Die to Sin
We are Buried in Water for the Remission of Sins
We are Raised to Walk in a New Life

The diagram illustrates the Gospel Re-enacted in Baptism. It features a central cross with Jesus on it. Below the cross, a man is being baptized in a body of water. To the right, the man is shown resurrected, standing on a cloud. Arrows indicate a cycle: 'Dead to Sin' points to the cross, 'Buried in Water' points to the baptism, and 'Resurrected to a New Life' points to the resurrected man.

Dead to Sin

Buried in Water

Resurrected to a New Life