

Denomination - cont.

everywhere a general sense (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23) and a group of Christians in a local sense (1 Corinthians 1:2). The church of Christ is not a division of anything, nor is it a group of dissenters.

Is the church of Christ a denomination? No, because its date of origin is not late. No, because its name is not after man. No, because it does not teach doctrines of men. No, because it does not have a man-made organization.

The Lord is not pleased with modern denominationalism because it is divisive and contrary to unity (John 17:20-21; 1 Corinthians 10:10-13).

The church of Christ in the New Testament does not have much in common with modern denominationalism. However, there are Churches (big "C") of Christ today that have become denominations. We must guard against this ourselves!

Will you leave denominationalism immediately and be a member of the church of Christ — the church that truly brings glory to God (Ephesians 3:21; 1 Peter 4:16)? - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Love persons and use things; not the other way around.
- Hasty decisions can bring life-long regrets.
- Your habits can serve you or enslave you.
- Alcohol takes the brakes off of self-control.
- To know to do something good and not do it is both sinful and cowardly.
- It is never right to do wrong; it is never wrong to do right.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Is the church of Christ a Denomination?

Why ask the question, “Is the church of Christ a denomination?” Well, there are many churches to choose from and religious division is widespread. How do you know which church you should belong to? Does it even matter which church you belong to? These questions are best answered when we find out if the church of Christ is a denomination.

Some people say that all denominations make up the “Church of Christ” and others say that the church of Christ is just another denomination. (They are known as the “Campbellites”.) Some people say the Church of Christ is the best denomination to be a part of and others say that we must be “non-denominational”.

What is a denomination? The word “denomination” refers to something divided by group and distinct in name. For example, there are denominations of money: \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100. Church denominations are divided by name and other characteristics.

“Denominational” religious bodies have four distinct characteristics: (1) date of origin; (2) name; (3) doctrine; and, (4) organization. Let us examine these characteristics and answer the

question, “Is the church of Christ denominational?”

What is the origin of denominations? Catholic and Eastern Orthodox denominations originated c. A.D. 600-1200. Protestant denominations originated c. A.D. 1500-1600 (Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, etc.). American denominations originated c. A.D. 1700-1900 (J.W.s, Mormon, Adventist, Pentecostal, etc.).

The church of Christ, however, existed long before these in A.D. 33 (Isaiah 2:2-3; Acts 2:37).

What are denominational names? Denominations have names given to them by men (Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, J.W.s, Mormon, Adventist, etc.). Unfortunately, names like these other than Jesus Christ divide (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).

The church of Christ, however, is named after Jesus Christ. Individual members are called “Christians” (Acts 11:26) and local churches are called “churches of Christ” (Romans 16:16).

We must remember that the Lord, not man, built his church (Matthew 16:18); the Lord, not man, died for his church (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13); the Lord,

not man, created the church (Ephesians 3:10-11); and, the Lord’s word (seed), not man’s, produces a Christian (Luke 8:11; Acts 11:26).

What are denominational doctrines? Denominations teach doctrines of men that are recorded in creeds, manuals, disciplines, catechisms, encyclicals, and confessions (statements of belief). There are many denominational plans of salvation, works, worship styles, institutions, etc. Man-made creeds are either more or less than New Testament.

The church of Christ, however, appeals to the New Testament doctrine of Christ only (John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 7:17; 14:33; 16:1; Colossians 3:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Jn. 9).

What is denominational organization? Denominations have an organizational structure that is not found in the New Testament (hierarchy structure, headquarters, etc.). Denominations are larger than a local church (collectivity, synod, convention, diocese, board), but smaller than the whole church.

The church of Christ, however, exists in only two senses: all Christians