

Campbellites - cont.

bell, they are wrong to do so, and we do not have fellowship with them (2 John 9-11).

Sixth, we follow Jesus Christ, not Alexander Campbell. We follow Jesus, not the words of Alexander Campbell in his book, *"The Christian System"* (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:37; Ephesians 1:22-23). We follow the principle of restoration, but we do not follow the restorer himself (see restorations of Josiah in 2 Kings 22-23; Hezekiah in 2 Chronicles 29-31; and Ezra and Nehemiah in Nehemiah 8).

Finally, we do not wear the name "Campbellite". Alexander Campbell, himself, rejected this name in 1830 (*Millennial Harbinger, Vol. 1; No. 3; Page 118, March 1830*) and Raccoon John Smith rejected this name in 1831. We are "Christians" as we read in Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16, and members of local "churches of Christ" as we read in Romans 16:16.

As members of a local church of Christ, we resist the urge to follow anyone but Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:10-13), to lead others ourselves (2 Jn. 9; Col. 1:18), or to plant any seed other than the word of God (Matthew 13:19; 15:13). - *Chris Reeves*

- Thought of the Week -

Some people call this time of year the "season of gift-giving". During this time, I am going to remember that I myself am a gift to God and to others. Who I am and what I have in my life is a gift. I am going to give myself, my time, my talents, my things, etc., to serving God and others. I am going to give myself wholly to them. And, I will not do this just this week, but all year long.

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Radio Program
Sundays: 8:30 - 9:00 am
WVWB FM 105.1 The Wolf

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 5 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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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 -

Why We Are Not “Campbellites”

I don't hear it as much today as I did when I was a child, but often members of denominations (especially the Baptists) would call members of churches of Christ, “Campbellites”. This name came from Alexander Campbell who lived from 1788 to 1866.

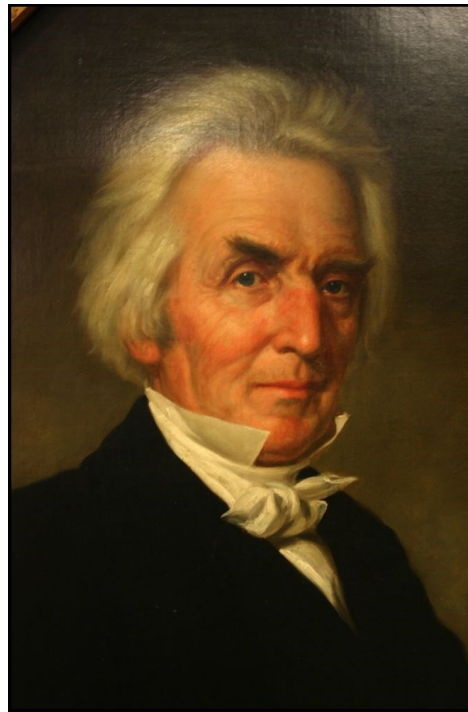
After Campbell left the Presbyterian Church, he wanted to be a Christian only. In time, he wanted to worship with other Christians in local churches of Christ. Because he did this, many in the religious world to this day believe that Campbell started the Church of Christ when he did not.

“Campbellite” was used as early as the 1830's to describe Christians at that time. Different religious groups engaged in this name-calling. However, name-calling is not helpful and it often comes about through ignorance, prejudice, slander, or malice (Matthew 11:18-19; 12:24).

Christians at that time, and today, should not be called “Campbellites”. But, the name “Campbellite” is still used prejudicially by Baptists and others today (see *Campbellism: Its History and Heresies*, Bob L. Ross, 1973). So, let's examine why we should not be

called “Campbellites”.

First, there were other people who wanted to be New Testament Christians before Alexander Campbell even came to America in 1809. Did you know that a local “church of Christ” was formed in Eng-



1788 - 1866

land in 1669? Also, a man named Barton W. Stone and other Christians served Jesus in the Cane Ridge (Kentucky) “church of Christ” in 1802. Additionally, the words “Church of Christ,” 1807, appears on Wil-

liam Rogers' tombstone at Cane Ridge. I have seen these grave markers in person.

Second, Alexander Campbell was associated with the Baptists from 1813 to 1830, not New Testament Christians. Campbell was not even looking to start a denomination called the “Church of Christ”.

Third, name just one belief or practice that we have today that came from Alexander Campbell and not from the New Testament. Our standard for belief and practice is the New Testament alone, not Alexander Campbell (Matthew 17:5; Romans 6:17; 1 Corinthians 11:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 2 Timothy 1:13).

Fourth, Alexander Campbell actually believed and practiced things that were wrong according to the New Testament. For example, he belonged to Baptist “Associations” which are not found in the New Testament. He was also the first president of the “American Christian Missionary Society” which is not found in the New Testament.

Fifth, if some Churches of Christ trace their roots to Alexander Camp-