

LESSON #9
"IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST A DENOMINATION?"

INTRODUCTION:

On Sunday morning many people will enter a church building with a certain name over the door and go through a certain form, ritual or program that reflects the heart of their faith.

Others of them enter another building a few doors away over which is another name, and they go through a different form, ritual, or program that somewhat reflects the fundamentals of their faith. Still others go elsewhere and do differently. And, so on and on it goes.

Often the father of a family goes to one church, the mother to another, and the children to a third so no favoritism is shown to either parent.

It's got so it's like a child in a candy store. There is just so much to choose from.

How do you decide? How do you choose from 500 or so different groups?

There are many reasons why people choose one church over another.

- 1. The most important people belong to that church.**
- 2. That church has 1,000 members.**
- 3. That church is small in number.**
- 4. That church is friendly.**
- 5. That church has a beautiful building.**
- 6. I like the way the preacher talks and combs his hair.**
- 7. It's so close to home.**
- 8. Mother and daddy went there.**

Thousands of people are selecting a church just for these reasons. Finally a selection is made for whatever the reason may be. Most of the time without helps, from the Bible.

When people are asked, "Of what denomination are you?" we get many different answers.

DENOMINATIONALISM

- 1. Many bodies or churches.**
- 2. Founded by men.**
- 3. Human heads**
- 4. Human creeds**
- 5. Wear human names**
- 6. Follow men**
- 7. Churches unknown to Bible**
- 8. Preach many gospels**
- 9. Many faiths**
- 10. Many baptisms**

Let's turn to the Bible and ask Paul, Peter, James, John..

BIBLE

1. One body or church	Matthew 16:18; I Corinthians 12:20
2. Founded by Christ	Matthew 16:18
3. Christ is the Head	Colossians 1:18
4. Bible as only creed	II Timothy 3:16,17
5. Glorify God in name	I Peter 4:16 .
6. Condemned in the Bible	I Corinthians 1:10-13
7. Church is in the Bible	Romans 16:16
8. Condemned	Galatians 1:8, 9
9. One faith	Ephesians 4:5
10. One baptism	Ephesians 4:5

Throughout the Bible religious division or denominationalism has been condemned as sinful. If it were sinful in the first century, it is just as sinful today. Our problem is that you and I were born into a world of denominations.

THE DARK AGES OF THE CHURCH

FALLING AWAY PREDICTED

Galatians 1:6-9	Paul witnessed the apostasy
I Timothy 4:1-5	Holy Spirit predicted apostasy
II Timothy 4:1-5	People would turn from Truth
II Thessalonians 2:3-5	Apostasy would come into the church
Acts 20:28	Apostasy would come into the eldership.

FALLING AWAY CONDEMNED

Psalms 127:1	The Lord must build the house
Mark 7:7, 8	Doctrine of men produces vain worship
Matthew 15:13, 14	Man made churches will be rooted up.
Matthew 7:21	We must do the Will of

ORIGIN OF DENOMINATIONS

Adventism	Massachusetts	1831	William Miller
American Baptist	Providence R.I.	1639	Roger Williams
Free well Baptist	New Durham N.C.	1780	Benjamin Randall
Mormon Church	Seneca, N.Y.	1830	Joseph Smith
Methodist Church	London, England	1729	John Wesley
Roman Catholic	Rome, Italy	606	Boniface III
Seventh- Day Adventism	Massachusetts	1846	Ellen G. White
Presbyterian Church	Switzerland	1535	John Calvin
Jehovah's Witnesses	Pennsylvania	1874	Charles Russell

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Cor. 1:10)

Let The Bible Speak !!