

Why?

The Church Of Christ Is Not A Denomination

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What is the Church?

ekklesia: "to call out of" ... "the called out ones"

Assembly of Saved
 "Called out" of darkness by God, by the gospel
 1 Peter 2:9-10;
 2 Thessalonians 2:14
 The Redeemed
 Matthew 16:18

An Assembly
 -Israel, Acts 7:38
 -Riot, Acts 19:32, 41
 -Gov't body, Acts 19:39

CHRIST

CHURCH (Universal)
 Hebrews 12:23
 Baptized into

CHURCH (Local)
 (elders, deacons, saints)
 Acts 14:23;
 Philipians 1:1
 On earth

Local Church Acts 11:22ff
 Local Church Revelation 2:1

Churches of Christ
 Romans 16:16

In heaven

What Is A Denomination?

- A religious denomination is a subgroup within a religion that operates under a common name, tradition, and identity.
<https://www.definitions.net>
- A non-denominational church is any church which is not part of a larger denomination.
<https://www.gotquestions.org>

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Denomination Illustrated

SO:

- Catholic
- Lutheran
- Baptist
- Methodist
- 7th Day Adventist
- Mormon
- Jehovah's Witness

Invisible Church

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Why denominationalism is wrong

I. There Is Just One Church

A. Jesus only promised one


Matthew 16:18

“And I also say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

Church = Singular in number

It = Singular in number

Why denominationalism is wrong



I. There Is Just One Church


- A. Jesus only promised one
- B. The Bible speaks of just one

“There is one body”
(Ephesians 4:4)

Body = church
(Ephesians 1:22-23)

Thus:
ONE CHURCH

Why denominationalism is wrong



I. There Is Just One Church

- A. Jesus only promised one
- B. The Bible speaks of just one
- C. The Bible is silent about other churches

II. Division Is Wrong

Jesus Prayed For Unity (John 17:20-21)

Paul Condemned it (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Contrary to doctrine (Romans 16:17-18)

It DOES Make A Difference What We Believe (Matthew 15)

Lie Truth	
<p>Cain (Genesis 4) Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10) King Saul (1 Samuel 15) King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Perish Condemned</p>	<p>Abel (Genesis 4; Hebrews 11:4) Noah (Genesis 6; Hebrews 11:7) Abraham (Genesis 22; Hebrews 11:17; James 2:21)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saved</p>

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

Lie	Truth
<p>Deceived (verse 10) Not love truth (verse 10) Deluded (verse 11) Believe lie (verse 11) Not believe truth (verse 12) Pleasure in unrighteousness (verse 12)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Perish (verse 10) Condemned (verse 12)</p>	<p>Love truth (verse 10) Believe truth (verse 12)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Saved (verse 10)</p>

It DOES Make A Difference What We Practice

- According to the pattern (Hebrews 8:5)
- In the name of the Lord (Colossians 3:17)
- Within the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9)
- By the rule (Philippians 3:16)

Doctrine DOES Make A Difference

2 John 9
 "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son."

"You can know you are on your way to heaven..."

SINNER'S PRAYER

READ ACTS 2:37-38

- "Finally, pray and ask Jesus Christ to be your Saviour, and claim His promise of eternal life. In Romans 10:13 the Bible says, 'For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.' That is a promise directly from God that if you will pray to Him, confess that you are a sinner, ask Him to forgive your sins, and accept Him as your Saviour; He promises to save you and give you the free gift of eternal life."

DOCTRINE

- Salvation by faith alone (James 2:24)
- Calvinism (Romans 2:11)
- Premillennialism (1 Corinthians 15:23)
- Miracles today (1 Corinthians 13:8-10)
- Impossibility of apostasy (Gal. 5:4)
- Deny Deity of Christ (John 1:1)
- Direct operation of Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)
- Still under Old Testament (Gal. 3:24-25)
- Oneness – Jesus Only (John 1:1)
- Infant Baptism (Acts 18:8)

Etc. ...

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ORGANIZATION

Organization DOES Make A Difference

Common thought: Organization Doesn't Matter

- Pastor rule
- Universal Organization
 - Pope
 - Headquarters (Earthly)
 - Counsel; Synod; Convention
 - Apostles (Mormon)
- Deacons have oversight

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ORGANIZATION

Scriptural Organization Found In Scriptures

Universally (Matthew 16:18)
Christ is Head (Colossians 1:18)
(no organization on earth)

Locally (Acts 14:23)
Elders oversee (Acts 20:28)

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ORGANIZATION

Organization of the Local Church as Revealed in the Bible and Witnessed by History 33-150 AD

www.bible.ca

Organization of the Local Church 381 AD
"One Patriarch over many Metropolitans"

The 5 patriarchs of 381 AD are the forerunners of the modern papal system.

www.bible.ca

Mormon Church Structure

<p>First Presidency & Two Counselors (at the death of the president, the longest serving member of the 12 apostles becomes the President/Prophet)</p> <p>The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles are responsible for making policy and taking care of the main administrative duties of the LDS Church</p>	<p>President/Prophet (receives revelation & inspiration from God)</p> <p>Two Counselors</p>
<p>Quorum of the Twelve Apostles</p>	
<p>The 70 serve as Area Presidents distributed around the world.</p>	<p>The 70's Quorum</p>
<p>Stakes are under the Area Presidents</p>	<p>Stakes & Wards</p>
<p>Wards are under the Stakes</p> <p>Each Ward has a Bishop which heads that church congregation</p>	<p>Bishops</p> <p>Bishop / Bishop / Bishop / Bishop / Bishop</p> <p>Congregation members</p>

NAME

Name DOES Make A Difference

Common thought: Name Doesn't Matter

- After men (Lutheran)
- After practice (Baptist)
- After organization (Presbyterian)
- After scope (Catholic)
- After belief (Pentecostal – Oneness)
- After claim (Jehovah's Witnesses)

Etc. ...

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NAME

Scriptural Designations Found In Scriptures

- “The church of God” 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Timothy 3:15
- “The body of Christ” Ephesians 1:22-23
- “Bride of Christ” Romans 7:4; Revelation 21:9
- “Church of the firstborn” Hebrews 12:23
- “House of God” 1 Timothy 3:15
- “Churches of Christ” Romans 16:16; Matthew 16:18

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W O R S H I P

Worship DOES Make A Difference

Common thought: Worship Doesn't Matter

- Instrumental music
- Lord's Supper on week day
- Lord's Supper once a month
- Closed communion
- Sabbath observance
- Confusion (Charismatic)

Etc. ...

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W O R S H I P

Scriptural Worship Found In Scriptures

- Singing. Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; 13:15; James 5:13
- Praying. Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5,12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- Teaching. Acts 5:42; 1 Timothy 3:15
- Lord's Supper. Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23ff
- Giving. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

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A U T H O R I T Y

Authority DOES Make A Difference

Common thought: Authority Doesn't Matter

- Pope – Catholic
- Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society – Jehovah's Witness
- Conference / Creeds – Baptist, Methodist
- Prophets – Joseph Smith (Mormons)

Etc. ...

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A U T H O R I T Y

All Authority Belongs To Christ
(Matthew 28:18-19)
Hebrews 1:1)

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Scriptural Authority Found In Scriptures

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Why denominationalism is wrong



- I. There Is Just One Church
- II. Division Is Wrong
- III. It Makes A Difference What One Believes and Practices
- IV. Denominations Do Not Follow The New Testament Pattern

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