

Why Are There Different Churches Of Christ?

I Corinthians 11:17-19

The Heart of Division

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Attitudes toward the Scriptures

- Silence – Is it consent or restraint?
 - Hebrews 7:11-14 – "... Moses said nothing ..."
- Do patterns matter?
 - II Timothy 1:13 – "Follow the pattern ..."
 - Hebrews 8:4-5 – "...according to the pattern ..."
- Are commands, examples, necessary inferences the only way to establish authority?
 - Luke 22:19-20 – "Do this in remembrance ..."
 - Acts 20:7 – "... we were gathered together to break bread"
 - Acts 8:35-38 – "preached unto him Jesus" (ASV)

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Carnal behavior

- I Corinthians 3:1-4 – "could not address you as spiritual people"
- Galatians 5:19-21 – "Now the works of the flesh are evident"
- III John 9-10 – "... Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first"

Some do "not endure sound doctrine"

- II Timothy 4:2-4 – "... teachers to suit their own passions"
- A new way of handling Scripture ("No patternism") has infiltrated some churches

Churches Teach and Practice Error

Why Are There Different Churches Of Christ?

The **organization** of the local church is corrupted

- Acts 14:23 – "... elders ... in every church"
- Philippians 1:1 – "... saints ... overseers and deacons"
- Lots of history with missionary societies, sponsoring churches, and other extra organizations.

Where did these ideas come from?

- Matthew 21:25 – "From heaven or from man?"

Churches Teach and Practice Error

Why Are There Different Churches Of Christ?

The **work** of the local church is corrupted

- Ephesians 4:11-16 – "... carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning"
- cf. Acts 2:42 – "... they devoted themselves ..."

Examples: Social gospel, secular education, general benevolence

Where did these ideas come from?

- Matthew 21:25 – "From heaven or from man?"

Churches Teach and Practice Error

Why Are There Different Churches Of Christ?

The **worship** of the local church is corrupted

- Instrumental music has been a battle for generations
 - Ephesians 5:19 – "... making melody with your heart ..."
- Women preachers
 - I Timothy 2:12 – "I do not permit a woman to teach ..."

Where did these ideas come from?

- Matthew 21:25 – "From heaven or from man?"

Errors In Morality And Fellowship	
Moral corruption • I Corinthians 5:1-2 – “... there is sexual immorality among you” • Immorality is tolerated, worldly attitudes and conduct go unchallenged • cf. Ephesians 5:26-27 – “... holy and without blemish” Where did these ideas come from? • Matthew 21:25 – “From heaven or from man?”	

Errors In Morality And Fellowship	
Fellowship broadened • Lack of discipline • Ephesians 5:11 – “Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness” • II Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15 – “... keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness ...” • Fellowship with error • II John 10-11 – “do not receive him ...” • Revelation 2:20-23 – “... you tolerate that woman Jezebel” Where did these ideas come from? • Matthew 21:25 – “From heaven or from man?”	

Unity In Christ Is Possible	
John 17:20-21 – “that they may all be one” • Speak the same thing • I Corinthians 1:10 – “... that you be united in the same mind ...” • Ephesians 4:1-3 – “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” • II Timothy 4:2 – “reprove, rebuke, and exhort” • Unity is built on truth • Ephesians 4:4-6 – “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all”	

Obedying The Gospel	
Hear the Word of God ▶ James 1:21 – “... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” Believe the Gospel message about Jesus ▶ I John 3:23-24 – “... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ...”	

Obedying The Gospel	
Repent of your sins ▶ Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out” Confess that Jesus is the Son of God ▶ Matthew 10:32 – “Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven.”	

Obedying The Gospel	
Be immersed in water ▶ Mark 16:15-16 – “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved ...” Remain faithful ▶ Matthew 7:21 – “... the one who does the will of my Father ...”	