

DENOMINATIONALISM OR THE CHURCH?

Thoughtful Bible students realize that denominational “churchianity” bears no resemblance to New Testament Christianity. It is not only fundamentally **undenominational**; it is **anti-denominational**. Men have so long lived with the abnormality of denominationalism that they almost universally accept it as “nor-mal” (i.e., Scriptural, for those who may still bother with such trivialities).

By definition, a denomination is a religious body having peculiarities that distinguish it from the church revealed in the Bible. A denomination cannot exist without believing, doing, or preaching things not found in God’s Word. While all denominations teach and/or practice some things the Bible teaches, the things they teach that are **not in the Bible** are what make them denominations, of which the Bible knows nothing.

Consider some distinctions between denominational and Scriptural concepts of the church:

1. Denominations glory in their **many** churches/bodies. Jesus built **one** church (Mat. 16:18), which is His “**one** body” (Eph. 1:22–23; 4:4).
2. Denominations laud their **diversity** of doctrines, practices, and faiths. The Bible demands adherence to the **singular** “doctrine of Christ” (1 John 9–10; cf. Acts 2:42), and insists that there is **only one** faith (Eph. 4:5; Jude 3) and **one Gospel**, to which all must adhere (1 Cor. 1:10; Gal. 1:6–9).
3. Denominations were **founded by a man or men**. Biblical Christianity was **founded by Jesus Christ** upon the fact that He is the Son of God (Mat. 16:16–18; 1 Cor. 3:11).
4. Denominations are subject to **human authorities** (head-quarters, president, board, conference, pope, etc.). **Jesus is the sole head** of His church (Eph. 1:22–23; Col. 1:18), and He governs it from Heaven through His New Testament (Heb. 1:1–2; 8:6–13; 9:15–17). Each congregation is autonomous under its own elders/bishops/pastors (Acts 20:28).
5. Denominations admit that sinners can be saved **apart from** them. The Bible teaches that when one is saved, the Lord **adds him to His church**, and that one **must be in it** in order to go to Heaven (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 5:23–27).
6. Denominations worship according to **human doctrines and preferences**, rendering their worship vain (Mat. 15:9). Jesus’ church worships only as **He authorizes** (John 4:23–24; Col. 3:17).

Denominationalism rests upon the word, whim, and will of men, not upon the Word and Will of the Son of God.

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