

Heaven

September 7, 2008

"In my Father's house are many dwelling places... I go to prepare a place for

Volume 1, No. 28

Charlestown Road Church of Christ

4601 Charlestown Rd.
New Albany, IN 47150
812-945-0664

Web site:

www.Charlestownroadchurchof-
christ.com

Our Services

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 am
Worship: 10:20 am
Evening: 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Our Preacher:

Roger Shouse 816-260-1257

Our Elders:

Larry Beckham 502-777-7720
Bill Densford 812-944-8446



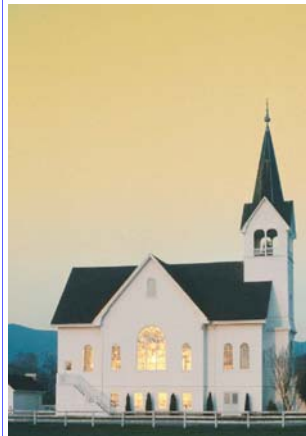
What About Denominations?

What about other churches? I don't understand why our preacher says denominations are wrong? Aren't we all doing about the same thing?

First, the choice is not between "our church" and "your church." The actual choice is between "the Lord's way" and "our way." Only when we are willing to submit our will to God can we be a part of His church. And where did that term, "other denominations" come from? Jesus said, "I will build my church" (Mt 16:18). Jesus never built a denomination. Jesus "purchased the church with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). His church is not a denomination. And, it is a mistake to assume that all other churches are the same as His. They are not.



A denomination is not another name for church. It is an organization of several churches that are linked together. Often they have a headquarters that oversees all the churches in the organization. Money, rules, by-laws and staff are determined by the headquarters. In denominations, money follows from churches to headquarters and back. Churches are divided into regional, state and national sections. Each level has a group of people that have functions of overseeing and administering the churches under them. Denominations are run like a business with multi-levels of managers, superintendents, CEO's, CFO's and eventually a board or a president. Denominations often have national meetings in which delegates gather to vote on church policy. This superstructure is not found in the Bible. The N.T. churches were overseen by elders that were among them (1 Pet 3:5). There was no higher levels of management above the elders. The individual congregations were not linked or tied together, financially or by administration. Each congregation was separate and autonomous.



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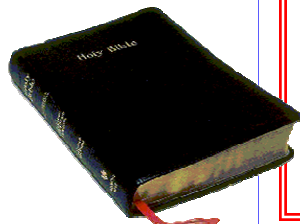
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To many people, the idea of there being only one church is new and sometimes repulsive. But the truth is, Jesus built only one church—His. He died for only one church—His. The church is saved people (Acts 2:47). Only Christ can save. Only Christ can add people to the body of the saved, or His church.

We would like to be at peace with everyone, and have everyone love us. But we cannot compromise what the Bible teaches. The denominations offer a brand of religion that looks similar to the N.T. but it is not. It is a counterfeit. Salvation is not by grace alone! It does matter how we worship God! Paul said, *"The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you"* (Phil. 4:9). The Thessalonians were praised for being *"imitators of the churches that are in Judea"* (1 Thes 2:14).

This does not give us the right to be rude, callous or lacking tact when talking to others about God's way. The Bible tells us to correct with "gentleness." But on the other hand, we shouldn't leave the impression that we endorse the error that they are a part of. This is not a comparison of my church vs. your church. It is a plea for all people to do what the Bible teaches—in all areas. We need the love of Christ as well as the doctrine of Christ. For many years now churches have offered all kinds of social, entertainment and educational activities that appeals to the neighborhood but which are not imitating the examples of what churches did in the N.T. The plea of the apostles, *"WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MAN"* (Acts 5:29) has never been more true than now. It is not about what I like, or what I get from it, or even how much good it does me. What is at stake is, are we the body of Christ or an imitation? Are we pleasing God or ourselves? Are we following the Bible or not?

We must obey God rather than man!



Family Connections

News for You

- Ladies Thursday class will not meet this week
- Young Peoples Lectureship follow up meeting this evening after PM services
- Check the bulletin board for area meetings and announcements concerning people here

Gospel Meeting

Sept 28– Oct 1

J.R. Bronger (Danville, IN)

Theme: "The Reverence of God"

- Meeting flyers are available. Use them. Pass them out. Post them.
- Did you know that the sermons and bulletins are posted on our Web site (www.charlestownroadchurchofchrist.com). This is a good way to pass things on to friends!

Barbara Clem passed away on Thursday.

For your Prayers:

- **Lois Lantrip** had surgery on Friday. She remains in the Floyd County Hospital.
- **Dan Stuve** and **Kevin Lee** are recovering from recent back surgery.
- Continue to pray for **Yvonne Jones, the Mullin's family, Dauphus Crase**
- **Casey Brewer's cousin**, Derek Byrd is leaving for basic training in the Marines. She asked for prayers for his safety.

**Group 7 meets this evening
Group 8 meets next week @
Shouse's (after PM services)**

***You can't be a smart cookie
with a crummy attitude!***