

What Is A Denomination?

John 17:20-21

Sect Defined

a dissenting or schismatic religious body; especially : one regarded as extreme or heretical : a religious denomination

a group adhering to a distinctive doctrine or to a leader : party : faction

Denomination Defined

a value or size of a series of values or sizes

a religious organization whose congregations are united in their adherence to its beliefs and practices

"A religious organization (sect) uniting local congregations in a single legal and administrative body"

As Paul stood before Felix, Tertulles accused ... Acts 24:5

Paul answered ... Acts 24:14-15

Tertulles called doctrine of Paul a sect - a distinctive religious body, an offshoot of the "true religion".

Did that make it so? No, Paul demonstrated that he was actually following the teaching of God through the prophets.

Are we "one of a series of religions"?

How can we identify a church as a denomination?

Creed

from Latin "credo" meaning "to believe, trust, entrust." "a brief authoritative formula of religious belief; a set of fundamental beliefs; also a guiding principle"

Denomination Creeds may be called Discipline, Catechism, By Laws, Articles of faith, or maybe something else which sets guide lines as to what a group believes and practices.

"Creed" of the Lord's church should be the Bible, Why? - 2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:20-21

Scripture complete and sufficient guide for absolutely everything God wants us to believe and practice.

Any church with creed or source of beliefs by men is denomination

It is governed (at least partially) by creed instead of Bible. If not, why not just use Bible and drop creed book all together?

So many contradictory doctrines among denomination because none are willing to go only by Word of God.

Each source of belief or creed differs in origin, purpose & content. (From plan of salvation to organization) Is these that divide men!

True church of Christ will follow only creed book God gave

Name

Organization's name indicates to whom or what it owes allegiance, loyalty and devotion. God, thru prophecy shows in OT His people would be called by new name which He would give.

Isaiah 56:5; Isaiah 62:2; Acts 11:26

Christian means "follower of Christ"

Name of group should denote to whom we give our allegiance - Matthew 16:16-18

Upon what would Christ build His church? Confession "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Who's church would build? His! Churches of Christ Romans 16:16 Body of Christ Ephesians 4:12 Church of the First Born Hebrews 12:23

We can know true denomination by what it decides to call itself. (because Lord's church will go only by a name He has authorized)

Organization

Organization of church shows a lot of groups respect for scripture - **Galatians 1:8-9**

Adding to God's organization would pervert Lord's design

With that in mind we know that most denominations have a head-quarters. According to scripture unauthorized Lord.

No mention made of an earthly headquarters in scripture.

They invented their various organizations and officers ...these differ from what Bible shows to be organization of Lord's church.

Example: The Roman Catholic church has "pyramid" organization.

Beginning w/ the Pope as the head, under him Cardinals, then Bishops, under them Priests, and then "lay members"

Protestant groups also have pyramid type of government, elected head as headquarters, may use title "President" or other name.

Some have Bishops over many congregations, local congregation may have Board Of Directors, Pastor/Preacher, then lay members

Mormon church president passed away recently

Ephesians 1:22; 5:23

Scriptures further show organization of Church of the Lord is composed of Saints, Bishops, and Deacons. - **Philippians 1:1**

Saints, Elders & Deacons, and Christ as the Head. No other is leader/director of Lord's church

Colossians 1:18; 1Peter 5:1-2; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5

Anything other than what God reveals as to His organization is unscriptural & going beyond His will?

Safe to say no denomination has an organization like God shows for his church in Bible. Showing they count themselves unworthy of becoming simply the church that the Lord established.

The Church Belonging To Christ

Follows the teaching of Christ alone

Honors the Founder in their Name

Submits to Christ as Head with no earthly organization beyond local body

Since Denominations (one of a series) follow teachings that are not from God, they can never be the Church built by Jesus the Christ.

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