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# Is One Church As Good As Another?

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IS ONE CHURCH AS GOOD AS ANOTHER?

I Cor. 1:10-18

Question: A post-inspiration idea. Not Biblical in origin. Text the nearest *Ans.* to such a non-Biblical question.

INT. Note: some good in all denom. Some teach it-don't do it Bible, text in religion. Must appeal to it for answer.

I. SOME SCRIPTURES MISAPPLIED TO JUSTIFY RELIGIOUS DIVISION

- A. John 15:5. Vine, total church? Branches, denomination
  - B. John 10:16. Other sheep not denom. Only one fold!!!
  - C. Revelation 1:4. Give a diff. doctrine to each???
- Taught same truths to all - one!!*

II. SCRIPTURES PLAINLY TEACHING UNITY OF ALL BELIEVERS.

- A. Psalms 133. Good back there, good now.
- B. I Cor. 1:10. Paul spoke by revelation of God.
- C. John 17:20. Unity essential to world conquest.

III. THE CHURCH AS GOD PLANNED IT.

- A. In Prophecy. Isaiah 2:2.
- B. In Promise. Matt. 16:18.
- C. In Reality. Acts 2:47.
- D. Past Event. Acts 8:1.
- E. Number. Matt. 16:18 - Eph. 5:23-32.

The - 6  
 It - 4  
 A - 1  
 Church - 1  
 Body - 1

IV. WHY SO MANY CHURCHES IF BIBLE AUTHORIZES ONLY ONE?

- A. From 33 A. D. to 325 A. D. only one pure N. T. church
- B. From 325 to 533 the church in process of corruption.
- C. From 533 to 1793 in Dark Ages due to Catholic church
- D. From 1333 to 1443 the great awakening-Renaissance.
- E. Martin Luther. 1517. Exposed gross sins in R. C. C.
  - 1. Beginning of the Lutheran church. Against his wil
  - 2. Lutheran better than Catholic, inferior to N.T.C.
- F. John Calvin. 1534. Founded Presbyterianism.
  - 1. Any man-made church inferior to one Christ built.
- G. King Henry VIII. 1535. Father of Episcopalianism.
  - 1. Unknown until 1535. Result of split with R. C. C.
- H. John Smythe. 1608. Started Baptist church in Holland
  - 1. Rendered great service-restoring immersion as bap.
  - 2. Originated 1575 years after Christ started His.
- I. Charles and John Wesley. 1739. England. Methodist C.
  - 1. Got name from manner of procedure. Very methodic
  - 2. Name, organization, doctrine unknown to the Bible.
- J. Nazarene church, division off Methodist church.
  - 1. Avoiding formalism. Origin: America. 1894.

K. Where did the Church of Christ come from?

1. Pattern of true church is in the N. T. **Z**
2. Apostasy, Dark Ages, Renaissance, denominations.
3. Men from many denom. turned to Bible only. 1800.

V. Can the Bible church be found in America today?

A. Will leave the answer up to the audience.

B. Pattern to be presented from Bible as guide.

1. Name: Must be Bible name, glorify groom.
2. Organization: Evang. Elders, Deacons, teachers.
3. Place of origin. City of Jerusalem.
4. Time of origin. A. D. 33 None genuine later.
5. How begun? Through guidance of Holy Spirit.
6. Plan: One church. B-R-C-B. Primary obedience.
7. Worship: Sing-Pray-Preach-Supper-Contribute.

C. Answer: N. T. church: one which follows Bible.

D. Any denomination can become a N. T. church by returning to the N. T. pattern of the church.

INV: Our plea: Study N. T. then find the church which follows it.

Our effort: Follow the Bible only. Invite inspection.

Christ's offer: Salvation on N. T. terms. Worship by the N. T. pattern. Cannot go wrong.

B-R-C-B