Why I Believe – Lesson 5
Why I Believe Denominations are Unscriptural
1 Cor 1:10-15
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how the Bible proves denominations to be unscriptural.

Intro:

A. Can so many "churches" that are organized differently, teach and worship differently really be pleasing in the sight of God?

B. Can so much confusion be pleasing in the sight of God? (**1 Cor 14:33**)

1. Denomination means division, so we are asked what division of the church do you attend, right?

I. Denominational faults

A. Faulty Foundations

1. Foundation 1 – social club approach
    a. Groups under various names whose purpose is purely social
2. Foundation 2 – emotional attachments
    a. Events and groups designed to create emotional responses and attachments to the denomination
3. Foundation 3 – entertainment-only events for children
    a. Events and groups designed to attract and entertain children

B. Weak teachings

1. Plan of salvation that does not exist and provides no hope
2. Lack of focus on Biblical teaching
    a. Identity
    b. Self Esteem
    c. Making the most of the "families you are given"
        i. These and other "unique" studies focus on being positive while at the same time ignoring sound Bible teaching – the true source of encouragement and much more!
3. False teaching on many topics.

II. Results of Denominations

A. Confusion

1. Which one should I attend?
    a. The one who's teachings please me!
2. What is truth? Man's ideas or the Bible?
3. How do I get to heaven?

B. Acceptance of all ideas & teachings

1. Many denominations claim to be "undenominational" while in reality they are interdenominational.
    a. All denominations are accepted and their teachings, thus less and less truth is taught.

2. Denominations are splitting over Biblical truths – gay "pastors", women preachers, etc
a. The Methodist church recent had some groups split due to the "gay pastors" issue.

C. Unconverted believers
1. Many claim to be Christians while they are not biblical followers of Christ.
2. The Bible only makes Christians only, however for members of denominations this is not taught or believed.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. Multiple churches was never in the mind of God.
1.**Matthew 16:18**–"my church" not my churches
2.Line up all the different denominations next to one another, and ask is this what God wanted?

B. We are to be united, if we are to please God (**Jn 17:20-23**)
1.Christ prayed we'd be united not denominated(divided).
2.Thus are denominations scriptural?

C. Proving themselves wrong
1. Denominations themselves prove themselves to be unscriptural
a. In a desperate effort to attract members denominations turn from being a "church" to merely a social group or in some instances a place of employment.
i. Coffee houses, etc

Conc:
1.Today the world sees so much division in the religious world.
2.Thus, we should not be like everyone else, we must show what God really wants and be an example as Christ's church.

<u>Non-Christians must:</u>
Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17
Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16
Repent –Luke 13:2-3
Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9
Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4
Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

<u>Christians must:</u>
Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3
Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9