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#### Service Times

##### Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

##### Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

#### Preacher:

Russ Earl

#### AM Sermon:

A Call to Remember (**Deut 8:11-17**)

#### PM Sermon

Reasons Why I Cannot Join Your  
Denomination #5 - Because Christ's  
Church Exists Today

#### Sunday AM Bible Class:

Outline of the Bible - Praschnik

#### Wednesday Bible Class:

Proverbs 13 – R. Earl

#### **In SEARCH of the Lord's Way**

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

#### **The Truth in Love**

on Channel 19 Sundays @ 8am

#### **The Gospel of Christ TV Program**

on Saturday @ 7:30am on Channel 53

#### Media & Podcast network

Visit [www.biblewaymedia.org](http://www.biblewaymedia.org) for  
more info.

The Oologah church of Christ only uses  
the **KJV, NKJV or ASV** translation of  
the Bible in classes & sermons.

## The Oologah Informer

### Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

#### Thoughts from the Preacher

#### **“Who Surrounds You”**

### **Surround Yourself with Godly People Or Be Lead Astray By the Ungodly**

#### Weekly Article

#### **Where I Stand #5**

By Russ Earl

There are various events that take place throughout the religious world. The Christian no doubt receives notices and invitations of such events. This raises the question, is it permissible to participate in joint activities with any of the denominations? I think it's important to define what makes a denomination.

A denomination is a religious group that abides by traditions, creeds and doctrines of men rather than the Word of God (Mt 15:9). These teachings become clear in worship, what is taught concerning salvation and other areas. It's also important to note that a congregation that wears the name “church of Christ” can also become a denomination if they have departed from the teachings of Christ and the pattern found in the New Testament (2 Tim 1:13).

Since a denomination is a religious group that teaches things that are in opposition from what we find in the Word of God, it is only logical to conclude that the same teachings will be found and promoted at their various events. This brings up the question “Why would the Lord's church join in with, thereby condone, false teaching?” The Bible warns about having fellowship with those who teach doctrine that is contradictory to God's commands. Consider what Peter says: “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed” (2 Peter 2:1-2). Since denominations teach that which is false they fit the group of people to which Peter was referring.

The Lord's church cannot go along with teaching that will separate man from God. We are told to have no fellowship with denominations, but instead to expose such “unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph 5:11). A congregation can have no fellowship with denominations without accepting, condoning or ignoring the false teaching of such groups.

It's just innocent fun! I see no harm in it. What's the big deal? These are just some of the questions and statements you may hear when discussing joining in activities with denominations.

One must remember that part of a being a part of the Lord's church is recognizing the dangers of partnering with those who teach damnable error. It continues to be astonishing the amount of people who fail to see

the dangers in such things. Is having fun worth condoning error and appearing like “just another denomination” worth it? Is it worth it if we fail to see the harm in it? Is it worth it if we say it’s not a big deal, it seems innocent? The church is not separate from denominations to be harsh, rude or unloving. The church is separate from denominations because we understand that what denominations teach is harmful to the soul of man.

Instead of joining with denominations in their events why not plan activities at our local congregations that provide opportunities for us to teach the truth? Why not invite children and teens to biblical sound events that provide a time of learning Bible truths and fun, so long as learning Bible truths is our priority.

If the Lord’s church begins attending and/or become a joint-partner in denominational events, then we begin down the path of becoming a denomination ourselves. When this happens, we are no longer the Lord’s church, we are no longer pleasing to Him, and we no longer will have the hope of heaven. Is it worth it?