

**Why I am a member of the church of Christ
because it is undenominational.**

John 10:14-16

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how the church of Christ is truly undenominational.

- Intro: 1. Undenominational today has the idea carries the idea that members of all denominations are welcome, not that they are truly undenominational.
2. The Greek word for “church” means “the called out.” Thus, the church is that body of people who have been called out of the world by the gospel (**2 Thessalonians 2:14**). Christ rules this church, the only church, as the singular head of the church (**Colossians 1:18**).
- I. Christ was undenominational so His church must be.
- A. The Lord did not align himself with any party or division during his earthly work.
1. There were four principal divisions among the Jews: the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Herodians, And the Essenes.
2. Though each of these taught some truth, the Lord did not identify himself with any of them.
- B. What the Lord did...
1. Our Lord pray for unity (**John 17:20, 21**)
2. Our Lord paid for unity (**Ephesians 2:16**)
3. Our Lord pleaded for unity (**1 Corinthians 1:10**)
4. Our Lord planned for unity (**Ephesians 4:1-6**)
- II. The church of the New Testament versus Denominationalism
1. The N.T. church is divine origin (**Matthew 16:18; Daniel 2:44**)
Denominationalism is man made without divine origin (**1 Corinthians 14:33**)
Denominationalism is contrary to the Lord’s prayer for unity (**John 17:20, 21**).
2. The N.T. church is designated by Bible names (**Romans 16:16; acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2**)
Denominations are named after men, forms of church government, and virtues. Yet we are to speak as the oracles of God (**1 Peter 4:11**).
3. The N.T. church began in the first century (**Acts 2:47**).
Catholicism at its beginning in the 7th century and Protestantism had its beginning in the 16th century.
4. The N.T. church has heavenly headquarters (**Ephesians 1:22, 23; 1 Peter 3:22**)
Denominations have earthly headquarters; some in Rome, or Salt Lake City, or Independence Missouri, or Cleveland, Tennessee, etc.
5. The N.T. church; its members are added to it.
Denominations – members JOIN – you do not join the family of God; rather, you are added to the congregation (**Acts 2:47**).
6. The N.T. church: its members enter by believing, repenting, confessing, and being baptized (**Acts 2:36-47; 8:26-40**).

Denominationalism-members enter by following: human laws of induction, members may be voted in, members we have to have “a religious experience, or experience the Holy Spirit”, may have to sign a written agreement concerning how much they will contribute each week, etc.

7. The N.T. church began in Jerusalem (*Zechariah 1:16; Isaiah 2:1-4; Mark 9:1; Luke 24:46; Acts 1:1-4*).

III. Are denominations united?

A. Denominations press unity among themselves.

1. One Baptist preacher has said “*so long as they teach the gospel...*”.
2. Is that possible with so many divisions? Baptism – immersion, sprinkling, and pouring.

B. Unity in diversity.

1. This is the plea of many today. But, can you be divided with so many conflicting ideas?
2. What this plea really means – we will ignore our differences. We will ignore the fact that each:
 - teach differently concerning salvation
 - teach differently concerning the Holy Spirit.
 - teach differently concerning worship
 - teach differently concerning the Lord’s Supper
 - and the list goes on and on.

- Conc:
1. What does it mean if the church is truly undenominational?
 2. Shouldn’t everyone want to be part of a church that is not a denomination?
 3. Full Invitation