

The Oologah Informer

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IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST A DENOMINATION?

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

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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:

Sermon Series: Exodus Lesson 7
“The Locusts & Darkness”

PM Sermon:

Payment Due

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The book of Judges: D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Book of John – R. Earl

In SEARCH of the Lord’s Way

Tulsa KWHB-47
Sunday mornings at 7:30 am

Oologah Internet Radio Programs

Russ’ Program on Friday’s
@ 8am & 8pm

Vance’ Program on Wednesdays
@ 6:30pm & Thursdays @ 6:30am

LIVE broadcast on Mondays @
4:30pm

Visit www.tgrn.org to listen!

I’m sure that everyone has heard the saying, what denomination are you a member of?

Many people assume that if you are a member of a religion, that you must be part of a denomination. However, that is a false statement. Denomination means a division or a part of the whole, and such division is condemned by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:10-13. The church of Christ is not a denomination for several reasons: it has no denominational name, it follows no denominational creed, it has no denominational organization, it follows no denominational worship, and it can be traced back to the Bible, starting in Jerusalem, on the day of Pentecost.

The church of Christ is not a denomination because it wears no denominational name. As many denominations wear the name of their founder, the church of Christ wears no completely earthly name. It wears only the name of Christ. This is true of the universal church: Matthew 16:18, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” This is also true of the local congregations: Romans 16:16, “... the churches of Christ greet you.” Even the individual members of the church are simply known as Christians (Acts 11:26). The church only wears the name of Christ because they belong to Christ (1Corinthians 6:20, Acts 20:28).

The church of Christ is not a denomination because it does not follow a denominational creed. For years, people have tried to introduce their own creeds into the church. Christ said in Mark 7:7-8, “And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men...” Too many people are going outside of the Bible and teaching them as doctrines. Revelation 22:18-19 also warns that we are not to add to or take away from the word of God. Denominational creeds, for example: the Book of Mormon, will either take away from the word of God or add to it, in direct violation of this verse. Colossians 3:17 says “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” All things must be done by the authority of Christ.

The church of Christ is not a denominational organization. Denominations all have an earthly headquarters. All denominations have an earthly head. The church of Christ has no earthly headquarters, but its headquarters are in heaven. The church’s only head is Christ: Ephesians 1:22-23, “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Different congregations of the

church are under one rule, the rule of Christ, but they have elders that are to oversee the work at the different congregations of the church (Philippians 1:1).

The church of Christ is not a denomination because it has no denominational worship. Throughout the many years of denominationalism, the methods of which they offer worship to God has changed many times, in many ways. However, the church of Christ worships only according to the pattern that is given in the Bible. It does not change it in any way. Any worship that is not given in both the proper spirit and in the proper way is vain and not acceptable (John 4:23-24). 'In truth' means by the pattern which is given, and 'in spirit' means with the right attitude.

The church of Christ is not a denomination because it can be traced back to the Bible. The church of Christ is the church of the Bible; it is the only church which can say it was started in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1, 5). Many denominations can only trace their origin back a few hundred years, and all are started by a man. To name a couple: The Lutherans to Martin Luther, the Mormons to Joseph Smith. The church of Christ is the only church which can truly say they meet the qualifications of the prophecies in the Bible with the fulfillments given.

There are many other reasons as to why the church of Christ is not a denomination, but we can conclude that division of any kind is condemned by Paul. The true church wears no denominational name. It follows only the Bible and not some other creed given by man. The church has the proper organization given by the authority of the scriptures and not an earthly head. The church of Christ worships only in the prescribed way given in the Bible. The church of Christ can trace its origins back to the Bible. Is the church of Christ a denomination? No it is not.