

# Non Denominational Christianity

## Introduction:

Non denominational churches certainly seem to be a trend. In many places, it has become all about the personal satisfaction of those who sit in the pew. Old-fashioned authority, accountability, and moral absolutes are becoming a thing of the past. Services are usually promoted as informal, relaxed, casual, and fun. John MacArthur: "Christianity for consumers." Churches of Christ are uniquely positioned in the current culture. Great opportunity! We've always been non denominational!

## I. What does true non-denominational Christianity look like?

- A. Matthew 16.18 - Jesus started something.
  - 1. Acts 20.28 - Jesus died so that His church might be bought with His blood.
  - 2. Ephesians 5.25,28 - Jesus relates the church as a bridegroom to a bride
  - 3. Ephesians 3.20-21 - Jesus will save those who are in His church
  - 4. 1 Timothy 3.15 - the Church Jesus created is expected to be the pillar and ground of the truth.
- B. The church is a "called out" people. It is His body of saints. It is His great congregation of believers.
  - 1. Acts 2.38-42, c.f., 2.41-47
- C. What we have discussed up to now, leads us to conclude:
  - 1. The New Testament does not lead a person in to denominationalism.
    - a. Acts 2.47 - Jesus added the saved to the church. Same today.
  - 2. One must go beyond New Testament teaching in order to become a member of a denomination.
  - 3. Every denomination in the world would disappear if everyone would return to the teaching of the New Testament.

## II. True Non Denominational Christianity is seen in Accepting New Testament Doctrine

- A. John 1.11-12 - those who believe in Jesus as the Son of God are given the right to become sons/daughters of God. KJV: *the power*.
- B. How do we exercise this power?
  - 1. We obey the gospel - the truth of God - Romans 1.16; Hebrews 5.8-9
  - 2. Obedience to the gospel involves repentance & confession of faith - Acts 2.38; Romans 10.9-10
  - 3. Obedience to the gospel involves immersion in water for the remission of sin - Romans 6.1-7
  - 4. We do not join anything. There are no manmade membership requirements.
- C. We must accept Jesus' authority. Ephesians 1.20-23; Colossians 1.16-18 - Jesus is the head of the church.
- D. Those in the New Testament Church have a relationship with Jesus
  - 1. Romans 8.14, 16 - we are sons and daughters of God.
  - 2. Romans 12.1-2 - we are being transformed into the image of Christ.
  - 3. 1 Peter 2.21 - we follow in Christ's footsteps - following His example.
  - 4. New Testament shows people converted to Jesus - not a system of creeds, traditions, and churches.

## Conclusion:

- A. Let's not be ashamed of our message. Let's shout it from the rooftops!