

Denominationalism (Part 1)

By Ron Boatwright

There are more than five hundred different denominational churches, each teaching different man-made doctrines, each with different forms of worship, each with different human devised plans of salvation, and each wearing different religious names. There is no scriptural justification for this confusion, "For God is not the author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33). Such cannot be pleasing to the Lord. God's word says, "Now I plead with you, brethern, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." This is not happening in denominationalism. Denominations are of human origin and have no scriptural authority to exist. Every denomination is in conflict with the one church, which Jesus built.

The denominations have had their beginnings during the past 500 years. Now there are literally hundreds of differing denominations, each with its own peculiar man-made doctrine and practice which contradicts the Bible. How can any of these differing doctrines be true? They can't. Anything that contradicts or is different from the Bible is false doctrine. Their divisive human creeds that govern them come from the minds of men and not from God. Their creed books hold their group together as a denomination. The main reason for the religious division of denominationalism is man will not accept God's word as final authority.

Jesus says in Matthew 16:18, "I will build My church". The word "church" is singular, meaning one and only one and the word "My" is possessive, meaning it belongs to the Lord. The Lord only built His one church. Jesus never promised to build even one denomination. The church of Christ (Romans 16:16), which Christ built, began nearly 2000 years ago.