

# “DEVIOUS DENOMINATIONALISM”

**Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16**

## Introduction

- I. The idea of religious division has been accepted by some men for years.
- II. When the church was established there was no other spiritual body acceptable to God than the church of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4).
  - A. There was the church of Christ universally (Matt. 16:18).
  - B. There was the church of Christ locally (Rom. 16:16).
- III. Over time, men decided that they had ideas and wants different from what the Scriptures teach.
  - A. This led to the establishment of denominations (parts that they claimed make up the whole).
  - B. For a while there were just a select few (Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, Presbyterian, etc.)
  - C. Today, there are literally thousands of different denominations.
- IV. We must stand against the plague of denominationalism.
  - A. Denominationalism is inherently divisive.
  - B. Denominationalism is intentionally distractive.
  - C. Denominationalism is inevitably destructive.

## Discussion

- I. Denominationalism is inherently divisive (Rev. 2:6).
  - A. By the time that Jesus came to Earth, the Jews knew very well what denominationalism was like.
    1. Pharisees
    2. Sadducees
    3. Zealots
    4. Herodians
  - B. Each denomination has peculiarities that differ from others.
    1. Names (Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, etc.)
    2. Doctrines (salvation, membership, worship, etc.)
  - C. God wants unity, not diversity.
    1. Jesus prayed for it (John 17:20-21).
    2. Paul preached for it (1 Cor. 1:10ff; Phil. 1:27; 2:2).
    3. It is obtained by doing what God says (Col. 3:17; Acts 4:7; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9).
- II. Denominationalism is intentionally distractive (1 Kings 12:25ff).
  - A. The spread of man made doctrine distracted the Galatians (Gal. 1:6-9; 5:4)
  - B. How many are there this very hour that have been distracted by false assurances and false hope (Matt. 15:9).
  - C. Is what we follow distracting us or directing us (Matt. 21:25).
  - D. Man has been warned numerous times against things such as denominationalism (Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23).
- III. Denominationalism is inevitably destructive (Prov. 16:18; 1 Kings 18:20ff [esp. v. 39]).
  - A. Men should heed the warning from Jesus (Matt. 7:21-23, 13-14).
  - B. What will we use to answer on the day of Judgment (John 12:48).
    1. Think about your sentence (Matt. 25:34, 41).
    2. Man made institutions will not be able to help us in that moment.

## Conclusion

- I. We must make sure that we learn the truth (John 17:17).
- II. None of us needs to be divided, distracted or destroyed by the error of denominationalism.