

Is One Church As Good As Another?

TEXT: Eph. 3:20-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. THE POPULAR CONSENSUS.
- B. RESULT: HUNDREDS OF DENOMINATIONS.
 - 1. Confusion(**1 Cor. 14:33**).
 - 2. Infidelity(**John 17:21**).
- C. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?

I. MAN'S WAY VS. GOD'S WAY.

- A. MAN'S WISDOM DEFIES GOD'S WISDOM(**1 Cor. 1:22-23**).
- B. MAN COMES OUT ON THE SHORT END(**1 Cor. 1:20; 3:19**).
- C. MAN'S WAY IS UNRELIABLE(**Prov. 14:12**).
- D. HE SHOULD RELY ON A GREATER WISDOM(**Isa. 55:8-9**).
- E. LET US THEN DISCARD OUR OWN IDEAS, AND APPROACH GOD'S WORD SEEKING HIS WISDOM.

II. MAN HAS ALWAYS HAD AN EXCUSE FOR THE DIVISION THAT HE SPAWNS.

- A. THE AMERICAN "**FREEDOM FALLACY**:"
 - FREEDOM OF RELIGION MAKES ALL RELIGION RIGHT.**
 - 1. Not so, not any more than freedom of the press makes all divergent views correct.
 - 2. God gives the right to believe what ever we want, **but only the truth will save(John 8:31-32)**.
TRUTH, by definition, is EXCLUSIVE.
 - 3. If a man chooses to believe error, he may, **but he will not be saved(2 Thess. 2:10-12)**.
- B. "CAN'T ALL SEE THE BIBLE ALIKE."
 - 1. Let's see(**Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16**).
 - 2. **Not a question of interpretation, but of authority!**
 - 3. Is God the author of confusion?(**1 Cor. 14:33**).
 - 4. Paul said we could understand **as he did(Eph. 3:3-4)**.
 - 5. Does God ask the impossible(**1 Cor. 1:10**).
- C. FLAGRANT MISUSE OF PASSAGES(**John 15; 1 Cor. 12; John 10:16**).

III. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

- A. CHRIST PROMISED TO BUILD **ONLY ONE**(**Matt. 16:18**).
- B. **ONLY ONE** ESTABLISHED(**Acts 2:41, 44, 47**).
- C. THE CHURCH IS CHRIST'S **BRIDE**(**2 Cor. 1:1-2**). HOW MANY WIVES?
- D. THE CHURCH IS HIS **BODY**(**Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:12**).

IV. WHY ALL OF THE RELIGIOUS DIVISION?

- A. NOT BECAUSE ALL FOLLOW THE BIBLE(**1 Cor. 14:33**).
- B. BECAUSE ALL DON'T FOLLOW THE BIBLE(**4:6**).

- C. WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT IS?(**3:1-3**).
- D. PRIDE IS THE CHIEF OFFENDER(**Gal. 1:10**).

V. HOW MAY WE KNOW WHICH CHURCH IS RIGHT?

- A. THE LORD'S CHURCH ACCEPTS JESUS AS FOUNDER AND HEAD (**Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:18**).
- B. THE RIGHT CHURCH **FOLLOWS CHRIST'S TEACHING**(**John 8:31**).
- C. THE RIGHT CHURCH WILL NEITHER ACCEPT THAT WHICH IS FALSE AND SINFUL, NOR HARBOR THOSE WHO DO(**2 John 9-11**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. **JESUS PRAYED FOR ONE CHURCH**(**John 17:20-21**).
- B. PAUL DEMANDED IT IN HIS NAME(**1 Cor. 1:10**).
- C. WON'T YOU BECOME A PART OF IT?