

## SOME REASONS NOT TO JOIN A DENOMINATION

BY KEITH GREER

A popular slogan in today's religious world is, "join the church of your choice; one church is as good as another." Let me give you some good reasons why you should not join a denomination or a church established by anyone but Jesus Christ!

**Wrong point of origin.** *"And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power." {Mark 9:1}* Jesus said that some who heard Him speaking would not die until they, with their own eyes, saw the kingdom of God come. Jesus said it would come in their generation. Some of those who heard Him saw that prediction come true in their lives. Churches started by men, beginning with the Roman Catholic Church in 606 AD, came too late. Listen dear friend, if the church to which you belong did not begin on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem following the Lord's ascension back to heaven—it's not the Lord's church! See *Daniel 2:44,45* and *Acts 2:1-4*.

**Wrong names.** *"And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." {Acts 11:26}* The only scriptural name given for a follower of Christ is a **CHRISTIAN**. Where does one read about Lutherans, Baptists, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventist, Methodists, Catholics, and a host of others we could add to this list? Some say they are "\_\_\_\_\_ Christians." What does this mean? Do we read about "**Mormon Christians**"? When I lived in Las Vegas, the Latter Day Saints tried to convince me of this truth. Sadly, the scriptures are silent on that name. Obeying the pure gospel of Jesus Christ makes one a Christian—nothing more!

**Follow creeds.** *"Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind." {Philippians 3:16}* The Bible is the Christian's ONLY guide book. Hiscox Baptist Manual, The Methodist Discipline, Book of Mormon, Watchtower Tract Society, Doctrine of Covenants, and ALL other man-made written books fall far short of being true guides for religious practices. The Bible is God's last will and testament; if strictly followed, it will lead us to eternal life. No

other book is inspired or has the authority of Christ behind it! None other reveals the mind of God, *1 Corinthians 2:9-13*.

**Uphold and Encourage Division.** *“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” {John 17:20,21}* Jesus was facing death on the cross. Confronting this horrible ordeal, He had on His mind the unity of His followers. We have true Bible unity when we follow the same Lord and only obey His instructions. Jesus prayed for unity among believers—not diversity. Sadly, today’s religious world promotes and encourages diversity among believers. Just watch and listen to television evangelists (if you can stomach them). It matters little what your religious affiliation or doctrine you believe and practice. According to their teaching, we all follow the same Lord, and the fact that we have different doctrines doesn’t really matter. Only believe, accept the Lord as your personal Savior, and grace only are very popular. Such thinking is grossly wrong and leading men to the side of the devil! How can men, who claim to love God, love His book, be part of something the Lord hates—**DISCORD AND DIVISION!** *Proverbs 6:16-19; 1 Corinthians 1:10*

There are many other reasons we could offer, but these are sufficient to convince the honest heart seeking God to follow His religion and not the religions and theories of men! \*\*\*