

Is the Church of Christ A Cult?

Why this study?

- There are many churches to choose from; religious division is widespread; all denominations make up the "_____ of _____"
- Some say the church of Christ is just another denomination ("Campbellites")
- The Church of Christ is the best _____
- Some churches claim to be "non-denominational"

What is a _____?

- "Denominational" religious bodies have four distinct characteristics: (1) date of origin; (2) name; (3) doctrine and creed; (4) _____.
- Let us examine these characteristics and answer the question: Is the church of Christ denominational?

Denominational Origin?

- Catholic and Eastern Orthodox denominations originated c. A.D. 600-1200
- _____ denominations originated c. A.D. 1500-1600 (Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, etc.)
- American denominations originated c. A.D. 1700-1800 (J.W.s, Mormon, Adventist, etc.)
- The church of Christ _____ long before these in A.D. 33 (Isa. 2:2-3; Acts 2:37)

Denominational Name?

- Denominations have names _____ to them by men (Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, J.W.s, Mormon, Adventist, etc.)
- Names other than Jesus Christ divide (1 Cor. 1:10-13)
- The church of Christ is named after _____: individuals are called "_____ " (Acts 11:26) and local churches are called "churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16)
- The Lord, not man, built his church (Mt. 16:18)
- The Lord, not man, _____ for his church (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 1:10-13)
- The Lord, not man, created the church (Eph. 3:10-11)
- The Lord's _____ (seed), not man, produces a Christian (Lk. 8:11; Acts 11:26)

Denominational Doctrine?

- Denominations teach doctrines of men that are _____ in creeds, manuals, disciplines, catechisms, encyclicals, confessions (statements of belief): denominational plans of salvation, works, worship, institutions, etc.
- Man-made _____ are either more or less than New Testament.
- The church of Christ appeals to the New Testament doctrine of Christ only (Jn. 4:24; 1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; 14:33; 16:1; Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Jn. 9)

Denominational Organization?

- Denominations have an organizational _____ that is not found in the NT (hierarchy structure, headquarters)
- Denominations are larger than a local church (collectivity, synod, convention, diocese, board), but smaller than the _____ church
- The church of Christ exists in only two senses:
 - Among all Christians in a general sense (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23)
 - Among a few Christians in a _____ sense (1 Cor. 1:2), but it is not a division of anything, or group of dissenters
 - _____ in a sense larger than local and smaller than general

Is the church of Christ a denomination?

- No, because its date of _____ is not late
- No, because its name is not after man
- No, because it does not teach _____ of men
- No, because it does not have a man-made organization
- The Lord is not pleased with modern denominationalism because it is _____ (Jn. 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 10:10-13)
- The church of Christ in the New Testament has nothing in common with denominationalism
- However, Churches of Christ today can and have _____ denominations
- Will you leave denominationalism and be a member of the church of Christ (Eph. 3:21; 1 Pet. 4:16)?

MY NOTES