

## Being A Member Of The Church Of Christ Is Not Enough

I. Introduction: The word “denomination” means: “1 : an act of denominating; 2: a value or size of a series of values or sizes; 3: NAME, DESIGNATION; 4: a religious organization whose congregations are united in their adherence to its beliefs and practices” (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/denomination>).

Denominationalism means: “1: devotion to denominational principles or interests 2 : the emphasizing of denominational differences to the point of being narrowly exclusive : SECTARIANISM” (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/denominationalism>).

A. This lesson is by NO MEANS intended to negate the significance of the church (both locally [i.e. church in Corinth] and of all the saved) that belongs to our Lord (**Matthew 16:13-18** and **Ephesians 5:23-27**).

1. We know that the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (**Acts 2:47**).

2. We know the church is vital (**Hebrews 12:22-23**).

3. We have studied before Scriptural designations for us as individuals [christians, saints, disciples, etc.] as well as collective designations [body of Christ, the church, churches of Christ, church of God, church of the firstborn, church in a location, etc.] (<https://www.wordsoftruth.net/wotvol17/wotbulletin08132017.html>; [https://www.wordsoftruth.net/Sermon\\_SomeBiblicalTerminologyDescribingWhoWeAre2018.pdf](https://www.wordsoftruth.net/Sermon_SomeBiblicalTerminologyDescribingWhoWeAre2018.pdf)).

B. Nor is this lesson intended to downplay Scriptural designations (**I Peter 4:11**).

1. Those Scriptural designations though have created in many a false sense of security. They falsely think they’re saved because they are “members of the church of Christ” just as some Jews suffered from in a similar mindset (**Matthew 3:9** and **John 8:31-33**).

2. I have preached many times over many years about the few AMONG the few (**Matthew 22:14**).

3. This is an awareness lesson and a caution to us all (**Colossians 2:4-10**).

II. Body: Many In Today’s So-Called “Churches of Christ” Have A Denominational Mindset. They Are More Devoted To Their Principles Than To Our Lord Our His Word (**Colossians 2:16-23**).

A. The church is not the source of truth or salvation (**John 17:17**, **Colossians 1:5**, **I Thessalonians 2:13**, and **Hebrews 5:5-9**).

1. Within and without the assembly we must adhere to the teaching of our Lord to be His people (**Luke 6:46-49**, **John 14:21-24**, **I John 2:22-24**, and **II John 1:8-9**).

2. Our fellowship is determined not by being in the church of Christ, but by faithfully obeying our Lord’s will (**Mark 3:31-35**, **II Corinthians 6:14-7:1**, **Ephesians 5:6-11**, and **I John 1:3-7**). So, those who create lists of

"fellowship" or "salvation" issues are false teachers 100% of the time!  
Follow **Romans 16:17-18** accordingly.

3. The church is His house and must follow His rules (**Hebrews 3:1-6**).

4. While elders "watch for your souls" (**Hebrews 13:17**), they are subject to the authority of Christ just like everyone else (**Colossians 3:17**). They cannot Lord over the flock (**I Peter 5:1-4**).

B. It's much more than a name or a process leading to salvation we have to concern ourselves with. Think about the churches in Galatia (**Galatians 1:1-6**).

1. They had been baptized and designated (**Galatians 3:26-29**).

2. However... (**Galatians 3:1-3** and **Galatians 5:1-9**).

C. What's going on inside assemblies says more than the name those assemblies/locations are called by (**Jeremiah 7:1-16**, **Jeremiah 7:30**, **Jeremiah 32:34**, **I Corinthians 11:16-19**, and **Revelation 2:13-17**).

1. How are we taught to know the difference between true and false disciples (**Matthew 7:15-20**)?

2. In this congregation, that belongs to Christ unlike all those around us, let's be sure we are supporting His truth (**I Timothy 3:15**).

D. As we look at so-called "churches of Christ" today, we see more and more how few there are and will be (**Matthew 7:13-14**, **Luke 13:23-24**, and **Luke 18:8**).

1. In our frustrations, let's be mindful that there is a remnant however visible or invisible they may be (**Romans 11:1-5**).

2. Brethren, what we see going on around us is a reminder that we need to be ready to protect what our Lord died to establish (**Philippians 1:17** and **Jude 1:3-4**).

III. Conclusion: Today's, Churches of Christ are mostly denominational. Outside of a Biblical name, they have little in common with the Lord's true people. Lest we too fall into denominationalism after the doctrines of men, let us hold fast (**Hebrews 4:14**, **Hebrews 10:23**, and **Jude 1:21**).