

Who Are the Churches of Christ?

(Matthew 16:18)

- Introduction:
1. It is just as difficult today to explain our way of life to a 1st century person than it is for a 1st century person to explain his way of life to us.
 2. All we know of 21st century Christianity is denominational.
 3. Consequently, many today think that churches of Christ are just another denomination or “flavor” of Christianity.
 4. But is that so? Let’s talk about that.

I. The Church of Christ is Not a Denomination

- A. Detractors will say the church of Christ sprang from the restoration movement in the early 1800’s.
- B. Furthermore, I listened to a podcast wherein two preachers said that the churches of Christ originated in the 1810s, 1820s, led by Barton W. Stone, Alexander and Thomas Campbell.
- C. Sometimes, you will hear people call us “Campbellites,” suggesting we are followers of Alexander Campbell.
 1. Campbell denied being the founder of a church.
 2. (Acts 24:14).
 3. The seed principle (Luke 8:11-15).
 4. Campbell, Stone, and others, merely awakened the minds of people to shed the baggage of sectarianism and go back to the church of the Bible (2 Kings 22).

II. The Church of Christ Opposes Denominationalism

- A. Jesus prayed for his followers to be united (John 17:20-23).
- B. Imagine the apostles all forming various sects (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).
- C. Denominationalism stands contrary to the prayer and will of Jesus.
- D. Consequently, we call me out of denominations to be Christians only.

III. What Then, Are Churches of Christ?

- A. We are simply Christians, who have been convicted by the same message Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:36), and who have responded to his message in the same way they did 2000 years ago (Acts 2:37-38).
- B. As a result, the Lord has added us to his church (Acts 2:47).
- C. And, as his church, we call men out of the world, and out of various sects, to believe in Jesus and allow him to be their Savior and Lord.

- Conclusion:
1. With this, I know Jesus would be well-pleased.
 2. If we will resolve to believe what Jesus taught the 1st century church to believe, do what we taught them to do, then we will be what they were – the church of Jesus Christ!
 3. Are you willing to make that resolution today?