

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Why the Lord's Church Does Not Have Fellowship With Denominational Groups

The word “fellowship” in the New Testament, in most cases, is from the Greek word *koinonia*—a word which means a sharing in, a joint participation [Thayer, word no. 2842]. God has set boundaries on the fellowship in which His children are allowed to engage. It is a light vs. darkness scenario.

Our Lord wants us to extend fellowship to those who walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:7). He does not, however, want us to share in the sin of others (1 Tim. 5:22). He forbids us to have fellowship with “the unfruitful works of darkness.” Instead, He wants us to expose/reprove such activities (Eph. 5:11).

Many people today speak of a “denomination” as being a part of the whole body of the Christ (like one piece is a part of the whole cake); that is, each Brand X or Brand Y denomination is part of the church, but no particular denomination is part of the church, but no particular denomination is the whole body of Jesus. In truth, when one investigates the Bible, he never sees God's church described as a denomination. The Lord's church is not *part* of God's family; the New Testament church *is* His family (1 Tim. 3:15).

At the same time, the church of the New Testament is not made up of many different denominations. The modern concept of denominationalism is not found in the Bible. The proposal that men can divide into different groups which have different names, teach different doctrines and have different worship practices, is foreign to the Scriptures. Such an idea is a mockery of the Lord God, Who is not the source of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33). Denominationalism also is contrary to Jesus' prayer for the unity of those who believe in Him (Jn. 17:20-23).

Denominations are man-made. They exist by the authority of humans. They have zero “thus saith the Lord” to defend their existence. What did Jesus say about activities in the spiritual realm which are not from His Father? “Every plant which my heavenly father hath not planted, shall be rooted up” (Mt. 15:13). Denominations may appear to flourish in this life, but they face a fearful eternal judgment from the eternal God!

Denominations are a stumbling-block to people who long to receive salvation from the Lord. With their “Sinner's Prayer,” disregard for God's arrangement for the organization of the church, unauthorized additions to His prescribed worship activities, the fantasy about babies being born as depraved sinners, their ridiculous claims of the Holy Spirit giving them direct revelations, and many other non-biblical teachings and practices, denominationalism is one of the most detrimental and disastrous curses in the history of the human race. We love every human, regardless of their religious affiliation, but we hate every false way (Ps. 119:104, 128) and that is exactly what denominationalism is—FALSE

Along come some well-intended brethren who are convinced that we need to reach out to denominations and work with them. Why? Because, to these brethren's way of thinking, the denominations are “doing a lot of good and we could learn from them.” It is evil, not good, to bring a message that does not harmonize with the doctrine of the Christ (2 Jn. 9-11). It is evil, not good, to teach false messages which turn people from the truth (Tit. 1:14). It is evil, not good, to be in competition with the Lord's one body.

“Why do we have to be so arrogant? What makes us think that we have it right and everyone else is wrong?” It is not about “us” and “them.” It is about God's truth! God's truth declares that there is “one body” (Eph. 4:4). Jesus is the Head of that body (Col. 1:18). He is the Savior of that body (Eph. 5:23). And, His church, which began in a specific place (Jerusalem) at a specific time (the day of Pentecost, Acts 2) was purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28). No denomination can make such a lawful claim about its relationship with Jesus.

“Well, why do we have to be so mean-spirited about it?” If, in fact, any members of the church have been unkind in dealing with others as they discuss spiritual matters, then they need to repent. Unkindness is wrong in any setting and we refuse to endorse it regardless of who demonstrates it. Please do not miss

this point, though. Is it rude to open the bible and show a person that there is one God (Eph. 4:6); of course not. Is it mean-spirited to open the Bible and show a person that Jesus is the one Mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5); of course not. In the same way, neither is it out of line or ugly spirited to point out what the Bible says about false religious messages and practices.

God being our Helper and Witness, we will continue to love and reach out to people who have been hoodwinked by denominational teaching. We shall not, however, join hands with denominations to carry out joint worship, evangelistic, or benevolent activities—ever!

—Roger C. Campbell

Prayer Request

Sylvia Campos has requested prayers for her mother, **Petra Baca**. Petra suffered a stroke last Thursday, July 2nd which left her with a blood clot on her brain. She was given a blood thinner which she was allergic to but it did dissolve the clot. She had a swollen tongue. Petra was put on a ventilator before being air lifted to a Ft. Worth hospital. Because of the quick response to the stroke symptoms, she was not left with any disabilities and is going to be okay. However, Petra will have to undergo some physical therapy.

Having been exposed to Covid 19, **Christy Weakland** underwent some testing. The test did not show Covid 19 but she was diagnosed with a touch of pneumonia. Christy was put on medication and bed rest. Keep her in your prayers that she gets well soon.

Prayer List

Jack Aaron; Teri Armentrout; Brian Basaldua; Bill Berry; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Maddie Clay; Jon Cooper; Lavern Couch; Kim Drake; Jazmine Duron; Cathy Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Thomas Garcia; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Opal Hager; Winford Hambright; Irene Hernandez; Leo Holloway; Vertie Howard; Chris Landers; Linda Latch; Liz Leach; Betty Leeth; Charles Lewis; Ora McAfee; Krysta McMullen; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Jr. & Julie Munoz; Tanya Nichols; Rudy Ochoa; Juanita Orosco; Trina Plyler; Laisha Ramirez; Danna Robertson; Diane Salinas; J. D. Saylor; Janelle Shirley; Susan Simmons; Princess Tadashi; Mark Thompson; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Jackie Wallace; Lindsey Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Tom Wilcox; Carolyn Wilkerson; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question

Who said, "I have sinned for I have betrayed innocent blood."

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

Methuselah lived longer than anyone else (969 years) and his grandfather, Jared, came in second. He was 962 years old.

Events

Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

The New Mexico **Christian Children's Home** will be here Wednesday, July 22nd for their food drive. They are requesting **Coconut Oil** and **Dryer Sheets**.

Picture Board

We started taking our member's photos on Wednesday, July 8th to update our picture board. Picture taking will start 30 minutes before and also 30 minutes after each of our services for the next few services to be able to give everyone the opportunity to update their photo. Feel free to notify Tommy and Mirta if you have any questions.

"Drive By" Baby Shower

On Saturday, July 25th, there will be a "Drive by" Baby Shower for Amanda and Jordan Zuniga under the covered parking at the annex. Please drive by to show your love and support for them and their expected blessing anytime between 2:00–3:30 p.m. Enjoy curbside treats! They are registered on Amazon. More details to come.

Food for Thought....

God's delays are not God's denials.

The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention.

Joining Hands—A Wonderful Thing

A little girl was lost in a farming community. Her mother had looked all over for her child. She finally realized that she had probably wandered out in the large cornfield. The mother rallied help and the helpers joined hands and walked through the field calling the little girl's name. They found the girl scarred, but alive. Wonderful things happen when people join hands.

That story expresses our need to join hands of faith, love, service and sacrifice in expressing partnership in the Gospel. God has forgiven us in Christ, our Savior and He has united us in Christ our Savior, and He has united us with Him. At the same time, He has united us with each other that we might build each other up and help the church grow.

How many lost ones are out there who need to hear the Gospel? How many tasks are there which go undone? If we would remember to join hands, more could be found and more could be done. Everything is better when we join hands. How joyful and uplifting our worship becomes when we join together and sing praises to God in our assemblies of worship on the Lord's Day. It is pleasing to God when He sees His people joining hands in the work of the Kingdom. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

—Clark Tatum

July 12, 2020	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Cody Wesson
Sermon	Rob Whitacre	Rob Whitacre
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Don Eason	Bill Brown
Second Prayer	Kevin Wilcox	Josh Wells
Closing Prayer	Scot Straw	Craig Wesson
Lords Supper		
<u>Scripture Reading:</u>	Jacob Carson	Tommy Garcia
		Communion (In Library)

NOTE: We will continue with our Communion Service and Giving at the end of our worship service thru June.

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547—*Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 — *Pulpit:* Bill Ryan 352-4871—*Table:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 — *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990— *Recording Sermons:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231— *Collections:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231

Sunday AM

“Personal Evangelism Seminar”

Sunday PM

“Personal Evangelism Seminar”

Our Records

Bible Class... 41
Morning Worship...48
Evening Worship...31
Wednesday...43
Contribution... \$4,289.00

Note: Our services will also be “livestreamed” on Facebook.