

Eisenhower Church of Christ

What's the Difference Between the Church of Christ and Denominations?

Church members will sometimes be asked a question similar to the above title. There are many ways to answer, such as only the church of Christ started at the right time (Daniel 2:44), in the right place (Jerusalem, Luke 24:49; cf. Isaiah 2:3; Acts 1:8; 2:1-47), by the right person (Jesus, Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23) and with the right doctrine (Matthew 16:19; Acts 2:38; Romans 16:16-18). No denomination can claim any of these points! However, there is one single Bible verse that also totally exposes the difference between the church of Christ and all denominations.

Colossians 3:17

The most concise yet comprehensive way to answer the question is to apply what Colossians 3:17 teaches. This verse reads, ***“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”***

Notice the three statements in the beginning of this verse that show how much an individual or a group of individuals calling themselves a church must do by the authority of Jesus Christ: (1) “whatever you do” leaves nothing out; (2) “in word or deed” includes everything, thoughts, speech and actions, and (3) “do all” encompasses everything. Any one of these statements by itself would teach that Jesus’ authority is needed for everything we do, but when the God-breathed Scriptures give that scope three times in one verse, there is an undeniable emphasis; everything we do, must be done with God’s authority! Understanding and applying these three, practically synonymous, statements is the key to distinguishing the difference between denominations and the faithful church of Christ!

The phrase, “in the name of the Lord Jesus,” means that everything a church or individual does must have the authority of Jesus (Acts 3:6; 9:29; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; James 5:10). He has been given “all authority” (Matthew 28:18). Anything a church does that cannot be supported by New Testament authority is sinful and thereby reflects denominationalism. For example, many denominational churches claim their authority for using mechanical instruments of music in worship is found in David and in the Psalms 81:2; 98:6; 149:3; 150:1-6. However, whether David was commanded to use them in worship is irrelevant to New Testament worship. Our authority must come from the New Testament. David and the Psalms are Old Testament. There is no authority for using instruments in worship today!

There is a misconception in denominationalism that “in the Lord” simply means dedicating a certain action to the Lord, thereby making that action right and acceptable to God. I have heard members of denominations say, “God has blessed me with this ability to play the piano, so He must be pleased and honored when I use that talent in worship to Him, in His name.” The problem with this kind of reasoning is that it is not humanity’s place to determine what pleases God! It is God’s call and He has told us through His written Word, the Bible, what pleases Him. We must worship God by what He says (John 4:23-24), not by what we desire or think is appropriate (Matthew 15:8-9; John 4:22; Acts 17:23; Colossians 2:20-23).

A person’s claiming to do something “in Jesus’ name” does not mean that he or she is truly doing something in Jesus’ name (i.e. by His authority). Consider Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount. ***“Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord,***

have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you practice lawlessness!" (Matthew 7:21-23).

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Prayer Request

Debbie Cox (wife of Dr. Cox) had to undergo an emergency surgery last week. Dr. Cox has requested prayers for her.

Concerns Update

Hattie Gilmore is still at Madison Medical Resort undergoing physical therapy. She is in Room #317-B. Continue to keep her in your prayers that she will soon be feeling much better.

John Wood is having his physical therapy at Encompass Rehab in Midland. He is still in need of our prayers for a complete recovery.

Prayer List

Dr. Hank Abrams; Sheila Alcazar; Maria Anaya; Mary Anchondo; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Catherine Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Mark Erwin; Philip Garza; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Elaine Huntington; Mildred Lee; Vanessa Machuca; Ora McAfee; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Richard Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chassidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; David Ryan; Lisa Salas; Reda Sowell; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; Charles Wood; John Wood, Julia York.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna Callendar; Ronda Lyne; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw
Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Knowledge "Paul Slept Here"

Paul slept in Lystra where he was stoned and left for dead. (Acts 14:19)

Paul slept in Jason's house in Thessalonica where a mob tried to hunt him down. (Acts 17:5)

Events

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

Food for Thought

We may give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.

Office News

The items requested this week for our "**Food Pantry**" are: Pasta, Beans and Canned Foods.

New Arrival

Congratulations, to Nathan and Allison Moyers on the birth of their baby girl, **Zooley Sue**, who was born at 5:22 pm on Saturday, July 8th. She weighed 7lbs. 8 oz. Again, congratulations, Allison and Nathan.

Baby Shower...

Ladies, you are invited to a **Baby Shower**" "that's being hosted for Allison Moyer on Sunday, July 24th between 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Bonnie Sorenson's home, 10 Tuberosa. Allison's selections are at "Baby's List". The hostesses are Bonnie Sorenson, Patsy Mitchell, Mirta Garcia, Beth Ann Easlon and Devida Montgomery. Please come join the fun and help celebrate Zooley Sue's arrival.

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Notice how they called Jesus, "Lord, Lord," but that did not really mean He was their Lord (cf. Luke 6:46). Notice also how they claimed three times to have done remarkable things "in Your name," yet Jesus responded, "I never knew you." Why? Obviously, because they did not truly follow the Father's commands (Matthew 7:21). What we think are good works may not be what God determines good works. Just because people claim to do something "in the name of the Lord" does not mean they are doing it with His authority!

Conclusion

There is a difference between denominational churches and the church of Christ, and rest assured, that difference matters eternally! We must study the New Testament to know the truth about what the church is and what God actually authorizes for His church (2 Timothy 2:15). Equipped with that knowledge, we can discern whether a group of people calling themselves a church is just another denomination or truly the church for which Christ died (Acts 20:28), to which He has added the saved (Acts 2:47) and for whom He will come again to take and be with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). This discerning should also sometimes include those who assemble in buildings with "Church of Christ" lettered on their signs. The one test that will distinguish the true church from denominationalism is to see that "whatever [they] do in word or deed" is "all" done "in the name of the Lord."

—Brian R. Kenyon

July 17, 2022	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Steve Easlon
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Caleb York	Jr. Munoz
Second Prayer	Bill Ryan	Tommy Garcia
Closing Prayer	Richard Siler	Gary Loving
Lords Supper		Jon Roemisch
Scripture Reading	<u>Craig Wesson</u>	Communion
	Larry May	(In Library)
	Jackie Perkins	
	Jr. Munoz	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547—*Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775 *Pulpit:* Cody Wesson 934-4646—*Table:* Jon Roemisch 202-7725—*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* Steven Easlon 269-0727 — *Collections:* Steve Easlon

Sunday AM

"A Changed Life"
(1 Thessalonians 5:23-28)

Sunday PM

"Quality of Jesus' Sacrifice"
(Hebrews 9:23-28)