

Eisenhower Church of Christ

How Many Churches Are There?

It appears that all who profess to be “Christians” do not know that Jesus promised to build only one church? In Matthew 16:18, He is quoted saying, **“upon this rock I will build my church.”** He used the word “church,” a word which is singular in number. This means that Jesus was limiting the number of churches; He would build one. Moreover, Scripture shows that He did build only *one* church.

Paul said, **“There is one body”** (Ephesians 4:4). He expressly states what that **“one body”** is in Colossians 1:18, where he says, **“And he is the head of the body, the church”** So here, Paul makes it clear that the **“body”** is the **“church.”** Again, in Ephesians 1:22-23, Paul proclaims that God **“hath put all things under his feet and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body.”** Notice, in these passages Paul stresses that there is one body and that, that one body is the church. Simple reason demands that if there is one body and if the church is that body, then Jesus built only one church.

All need to understand that the one church Jesus built is not a denomination. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter, Jude and all other Christians mentioned in the Bible were *all* members of one and the same church. There was no such thing as a “Christian denomination” Stop and think—the terms “Christian” and “denomination” are incompatible when connected together. Christians in the Bible are not denominationalists. Denominationalism is not the practicing of Christianity. Religious division was and is contrary to the will of God. Concerning His church, Christ prayed, that all His followers will be one,”...that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” (John 17:20-21)

The world looks at a divided so-called “Christendom” and sees a mess of confusion. What does this make the world believe about Christ? In “denominational Christianity” the world sees sectarian strife, hostility and division. How then can the world conclude that Christ is who He claimed to be? Reading his Bible, studying the life and teachings of Christ, it is said that Mahatma Gandhi came very near to becoming a Christian. However, when He saw the divided state of so-called “Christendom,” he concluded that Christ’s system had failed and therefore that Christ could not truly be the Son of God.

Is God to be blamed for the divisions among those professing to be Christians? No, **“for God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints”** (I Cor. 14:33). Paul exhorts those who will follow Christ to be, **“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”** (Ephesians 4:1-3). Getting down to the nitty-gritty, Paul penned, **“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”** (I Cor. 1:10).

People need to be informed that religious division is a serious matter and that those who practice the things which divide those who would follow Christ will be lost. Sounding that alarm, Paul warns, **“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God”** (Galatians 5:19-21).

Stated plainly, so-called “Christian denominationalism” is sinful because denominationalism is division. That is what the word “denomination” means. Dividing Christ’s disciples is contrary to the will of God. According to the Bible, those who preach and practice the things that will divide brethren cannot enter the kingdom of God. Proverbs 6:16-19 says, **“These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him.”** What is that seventh thing that is an abomination to God? “...He that soweth discord among brethren”. There is no Bible way that any denomination can be justified. The Bible condemns it. Therefore, it must be a sin! What should be done about those who cause divisions? Paul replies, **“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them”** (Romans 16:17-18).

—Tommy J. Hicks

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Lindsey Wells and her family in the loss of her brother, **Michael Owensby**. Michael passed away Thursday, July 25th in Gardendale. His viewing was 6-8 pm on July 29th and services were held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30th at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

Concerns Update

Emma Ochoa’s knee replacement surgery went well. She will be scheduled for physical therapy.

Janet Wesson (Jeff’s mother) who underwent two surgeries one day apart two weeks ago, came through both surgeries okay. Janet is recuperating and we pray that she has a speedy recovery.

Prayer List

Crissy Arroyo; Brian Basaldua; Don Blackwell; Betty Brooks; Bill Brown; Bill Butler; Cindy Campbell; Sylvia Campos; Steve Chavez; Linda Collum; Emma Craig; Ronald Dement; Bessie Diaz; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Winford Hambright; Letha Hooper; Debbie Howard; Betty Leeth; Jed Martin; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Juanita Orosco; Caydon Parker; Laisha Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Paisleigh Grace Shepherd; Janelle Shirley; Charles & Susan Simmons; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Robert Vargas; Beth Ann Warren; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; Jay Wesson; Conchida Williams; Sondie Williamson; John Wood.

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

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...

The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub. What were the symptoms of the demon-possessed man whom Jesus healed on that occasion?

Last Week’s Bible Quiz Answer...

Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32 to begin his sermon on the Day of Pentecost. It speaks of God’s Spirit being poured out on all flesh. Peter says that is what is happening on the Day of Pentecost.

Events

Watch **“In Search of the Lord’s Way”** every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the **“Speaking the Truth in Love”** program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Office News

The “New Mexico Children’s Home” will be in Odessa September 3rd–5th, 2019. No items are specified at this time. Monetary donations also accepted.

Note: A “Family Devotional” is scheduled for Saturday, August 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Gloria Craig. Please bring a side dish and a chair; the meats will be furnished.

Our “Fall Quarter Bible Classes” begins Sunday, September 1st. If you are interested in continuing teaching your class, please let a Coordinator know. Or, if you have never taught but would like to start teaching or perhaps interested in being a helper, please let us know what grade you are interested in

Walking With God

Very few people would be able to recall who Enoch was and what he did. This seventh generation descendant of Adam was one of only two whom God “took”. He did not feel death as humans usually do. **Genesis 5:25**, “*Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.*” He was the father of Methuselah and great grandfather of Noah. Enoch’s favor with God was not an exceptionally long life. His father lived nine hundred and sixty-two years and his son, Methuselah, lived nine hundred and sixty-nine years. Enoch only lived three hundred and sixty-five years before God took him. So what did this walk with God include? In **Jude 1:14-15**, it is revealed that he was a prophet. He told of the time Christ would return. In **Hebrews 11:5-6**, we find that “he pleased God” and “by faith he was taken up so he would not see death.” Other men are noted for being close to God. **Genesis 17:1**, Abraham walked before God. **Deuteronomy 13:4**, Israel walked after God. **Colossians 2:6**, Paul walked in God. Enoch walked with God. God loved His creation. Adam and Eve actually heard God walking in the garden in the cool of the evening.

What does Enoch’s life mean to the Christian? He was a baby and a child who grew up and lived through his teen years. He loved, married and became a father. He overcame the bumps and pains of life and pleased God. Christians must imitate these actions. We cannot actually walk with God, but we can pray to Him often and meditate on the word that tells us about God.

–Carrol Duncan, Clarendon, TX

August 4th, 2019	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Cody Wesson
Sermon	Branyon May	Branyon May
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Clint Titlow	Bill Brown
Second Prayer	Craig Wesson	Doug Guynn
Closing Prayer	Scot Straw	Jackie Perkins
Lord's Supper (Scripture Reading)	<u>Don Easlon</u>	
West...	Miguel Lozano	Jacob Carson
	Gary Loving	Communion
	Jr. Munoz	(In Library)
East	Jeff Wesson	
	David Ryan	
	Kevin Wilcox	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Larry May 638-3990 *Deacon*:: Josh Wells 770-6753 *Pulpit*;; Tom Sorenson 638-9447 *Table*:
Jacob Carson 940-3775 – *Song Leaders*: Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Sermons*; Josh Wells 770-6753 *Collections*: Josh Wells
770-6753

Sunday AM

“TBA”

Sunday PM

“TBA”

Our Records

Bible Class... 78

Morning Worship...112

Evening Worship...69

Wednesday...72

Contribution...\$5,291.00