



Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study.....9:45 AM
Worship.....10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service....2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class N/A
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Mike Bannister

Johnny McCaghren

Deacons:

John Barnum..... Don Smith

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

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

From time to time, church members will be asked a question similar to the title of this article. There are many ways in which this can be answered, such as only the church of Christ started at the right time (Dan. 2:44), in the right place (Jerusalem, Luke 24:49; cf. Isa. 2:3; Acts 1:8; 2:1-47), by the right person (Jesus, Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23) and with the right doctrine (Matt. 16:19; Acts 2:38; Rom. 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 accept and 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, even thoughts, because they determine 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 Thess. 3:6; Jas. 5:10). He has been given *"all authority"* (Matt. 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 will 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 actually commanded to use them in worship or in some other setting 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 also a huge 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 sincere 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

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Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

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we desire or think is appropriate (Matt. 15:8-9; John 4:22; Acts 17:23; Col. 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 who practice lawlessness!" (Matt. 7:21-23)

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 (Matt. 7:21). What we think are good works may not be what God determines good works. Again, just because people claim to do something "in the name of the Lord" does not mean they are actually 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 Tim. 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 Thess. 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 (Gospel Gazette Online, Jan. 2022)

Look at the Cross

"See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?" ("When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," Isaac Watts).

Sin is such a commonplace element of the world in which we live that it's easy to take it for granted. We see it in the world in general and in society. How sad the way people treat one another! It's something we can experience in our own families, and we see the effects of it in ruined lives of people we dearly love. We also know what it can do in our own lives, in how we can struggle against yielding to the demands it makes in our own lives and the frustrations it brings to our efforts to live faithful and godly lives in Christ. We agree with Paul, who said of himself, "*For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*" (Rom. 7:22-24).

So, how do we break out of the bondage to sin to live in the light of God's will, to know fully His love for us and the beauty of life in Christ? Paul went on to say, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death*" (Rom. 8:1-2). How do we find God's grace and mercy to overcome sin, when sin returns so many times to tempt us, to trap us, to destroy us? Perhaps, we need a renewed perspective of what God in Christ has done for us, to drive us to our knees and to realize just how ugly and vicious sin is to our lives.

Isaac Watts' words above, at least for me, tap into a realization of the depth of God's love, of the pain and suffering Christ endured in the flesh for us. It should cause us to take a deeper look at what the cross means to us. We've become so familiar with the story of the cross, it's easy to forget what happened there for us. The eternal Son of God had to become flesh and blood on our behalf (Luke 1:31). Not only that, but He had to be tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15). Showing Himself to be the spotless, sinless Lamb of God, He suffered the shame of the cross, the

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Television

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbn.tv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

Jan. 16	Mark 11-12; Psalm 16
Jan. 17	Mark 13-14; Psalm 17
Jan. 18	Mark 15-16; Psalm 18
Jan. 19	Luke 1-2; Psalm 19 (video)
Jan. 20	Luke 3-4; Psalm 20 (video)
Jan. 21	Luke 5-6; Psalm 21
Jan. 22	Luke 7-8; Psalm 22 (video)
Jan. 23	Luke 9-10; Psalm 23

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week **30** contacts were made.

Announcements

- ◆ **No service at CARE** today, due to a Covid outbreak in the home. After that is to be determined.
- ◆ Covid numbers continue to spike in Brown county. Please us precautions, if not for your own sake, for the sake of those around you.

Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 13-16—**Spring Gospel Meeting** w/ Jon McCormack.

Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ Jan. 28-30—**Beyond the Valley Widowhood Seminar @ 5th & Grape** in Abilene w/ Jeff Jenkins.
- ◆ Jan. 29—**BCS Ladies' Day**. "What a Christian woman must be..." (RSVP by 1/9 if you want a t-shirt.)
- ◆ Feb. 24-27—**Arise** (and evangelize) @ Southwest in Austin.
- ◆ Mar. 3-6—**PTP Spark @ Round Rock**. Info on bulletin board. If you would like to go, it is recommended that you sign up soon.
- ◆ Apr. 3-6—**Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton** w/ Kerry Clark.
- ◆ Apr. 30-May 5—**Focal Point** in San Marcos.

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torture of the pain of the cross, the separation from the Father on the cross and poured out His blood for our atonement from sin (Heb. 12:2). The cross had nothing to do with any failings of the Son of God, but rather our failings – our sins (1 Pet. 1:18-20)!

Maybe sin wouldn't be quite as appealing to us if we would, through our mind's eye, go back to the cross and focus on all Christ endured to die for us there. He did it freely for our sake, but what a price He paid! See, from His head, His hands, His feet, that sorrow and love flow mingled down for us through His spilt blood. Satan doesn't love us, but he uses sin to destroy us. Where else does sorrow and love come together than in Christ being pierced in death, that His blood can cleanse us of our sins? What greater crown could be worn than that which was mockingly placed upon Him, which, however, truly revealed Him as our Lord and Savior, the King of kings and Lord of lords?

When you are tempted with sin, just step back and remember the perspective of the cross. Satan is a liar, a deceiver and a destroyer. Christ is deity become flesh who reveals truth to us. His love is genuine, observable by His offering of life, salvation and eternity for us. Does that image not touch your heart? Can it not renew your resolve for holy living in Him? Will it not motivate one to find life and eternity in such an image? **Go back to the cross. No, it isn't a pleasant image to consider or about which to read, but it is the depth of God's love revealed.** It will humble and break our hearts. It will draw us out of sin to a better, nobler, unending resolve to honor the love revealed there. Let's go to Calvary and look upon the Christ, dying for us to have life. Make it a daily part of your routine. What a difference it can make in our lives. "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Gal. 6:14).

Robert Johnson (Gospel Gazette Online, Jan. 2022)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)



Records

	Jan. 2, 2022	Jan. 9, 2022
Bible Class	30	29
AM Worship	32 + [12]	35 + [15]
PM Worship	27 + [10]	32 + [16]
Wednesday PM	27 + [5]	24 + [13]
Contribution	\$1,722	\$2,038

	This Week: 1/16/22	Next Week: 1/23/22	January 2022 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Huckaby Clean Building: Dennard / Settles February 2022 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Maninger Clean Building: Huckaby	
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	_____	_____		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	John Barnum		
Communion	Dex Dennard*, Kyle Duaine Daniel Edwards, Tom Wilcox	Ken Maninger, Chase Churchwell Coyce Reed, Ryan Settles		
Closing Prayer	John Barnum	Randy Huckaby		
Attendance Cards	_____	_____		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Dex Dennard		
Opening Prayer	Mike Bannister	Tom Wilcox		
Scripture Reading	_____	_____		
Communion	Dex Dennard	Ken Maninger		
Closing Prayer	Randy Huckaby	James Fuller		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 19 Johnny McCaghren	January 26 Don Smith	February 2 Prayer Night	February 9 John Barnum

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of January 16, 2022

Sunday Class 2 Corinthians 3:7
 Wed. Class How to Read the Book: Dialogues

God's Plan for Man's Salvation (Pt. 1)

I. Man's Predicament: Disobedience and Death.

- Unfortunately, the first man and woman used their volitional powers – and the free moral agency based on those powers – to rebel against their Maker.
- "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear" (Isa. 59:2).
- "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness...sin is lawlessness" (1 Jn. 3:4).
- Ezekiel lamented: "The soul who sins shall die" (18:20).
- While all men and women must die physically as a result of Adam and Eve's sin, each person dies spiritually for his/her own sins.

II. The Reality of Sin: Physically, Geophysically, Culturally, Psychologically, and Spiritually.

III. God's Remedy for Sin.

- God had no obligation to provide a means of salvation for man.
- God's efforts on behalf of sinful man are the direct result of pure love.
- God's love is universal – He desires all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).
- Only man's reckless rejection of God's love can put him beyond the practical appropriation of heaven's offer of mercy and grace.

E. God's Plan in Preparation.

- God's redemptive plan was put in place "before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:20).
- The Law of Moses had three distinct purposes.
 - To define sin and sharpen Israel's awareness of it.
 - To show man that he could not save himself.
 - It pointed the way toward the coming of the Messiah.
- Mankind was prepared for the coming of the Messiah in several ways: theophanies, types, and prophecies.

F. God's Plan in Action.

- God's holiness and justice demand that sin must be punished; however, God is also loving and "rich in mercy."
- Problem: How could a loving, merciful God pardon rebellious humanity?
- Answer: He would find someone to stand in for us – someone to receive His retribution, and to bear our punishment. That "someone" would be Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus Invited to a Pharisee's House; and Three Lessons About Feasts (Luke 14:1-24)

I. Jesus Invited to a Pharisee's House (1-6).

- This is the last of three times that Jesus ate with a Pharisee (7:36; 11:37).
- There was a certain man before Him who had dropsy (2).
- Jesus asked those present, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" (3).
- Jesus took him and healed him, and let him go (4).
- Jesus asked them, "Which of you, having a donkey [son] or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?" (5)
- They could not answer Him regarding these things (6).

II. A Lesson on Humility (7-11).

- Jesus noted how they chose the best places (7).
- He said in essence, "Don't take the best seat you can get. Take the lowest seat" (8-10).
- He concluded, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (11).

III. A Lesson on Unselfishness (12-14).

- Jesus now turns His remarks to His host.
- "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid" (12).
- "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you..." (13-14a).
- "...for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just" (14b).

IV. The Parable of the Great Banquet (15-24).

- One said, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!" (15).
- Jesus said, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many" (16).
- A second invitation went out, "Come, for all things are now ready" (17).
- "But they all with one accord began to make excuses" (18-20).
- He then told his servants, "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind" (21).
- When there was still room, he said again, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (23).
- "For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper" (24).