

“Does the church of Christ believe they are the only ones going to heaven?” This oft asked question is quite difficult to answer: mainly because we don’t always mean the same things in our wording. I mean, what exactly is “the church of Christ” and who are “they”? Denominational thinking has taken over America. Most of the people you know have simply never known anything else. So, before we can answer the question properly, we must show that there is no “church of Christ” in a denominational sense.

Denominationalism is like a large blue rectangle. Everyone who believes in Jesus is in that rectangle, the body of the saved. Once you believe and are saved, now you get to choose a box within that rectangle that reflects what you want to believe about Jesus: a denomination. Then, once you’ve aligned yourself with a sub group, you pick a local church in your area that matches that name. This is not God’s Plan!

Denominationalism is Wrong

- **Division is Not God’s Will** (*John 17:20-21; I Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-6*)
 - God never intended people to have divided ideas and belief and faith.
 - The “church of Christ” is not one of these boxes within a box.
 - God’s people do not accept division of doctrine in the Lord’s church.
- **Denominations Are Not Biblical** (*Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; Acts 14:21-23*)
 - Christ built the one universal church, the body of the saved, united in Truth.
 - And local churches are just groups who do what He says and follow the Bible.
 - There is no support biblically for subsets of churches under different names and ideas.
- **Doctrines Taught Matter To God** (*Matthew 7:21-26; Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19*)
 - Jesus didn’t say differing things. And yet, there are churches that differ in their teaching.
 - God will not accept any church that alters the doctrine from what Jesus has given us.
 - We must get back to the Bible, not our denominations, to determine Truth.

So let’s strip away what doesn’t belong. Let’s take the names away: “I’m a church of Christ” “I’m a Baptist” “I’m a Catholic” – God doesn’t recognize any of that categorizing. Let’s take away all dividing lines, all defense of our “churches” and let’s get back to the Bible. Here is what we find:

- **There is just ONE church, one body of saved people who belong to Jesus**
 - (*Matthew 16:18; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:36-47, Revelation 2:20*)
 - YES, only members of this church that belongs to Christ will be saved!
 - But only the Bible can tell us how to GET IN: Believe, Repent, be Baptized
 - And only the Bible can show us how to STAY IN: Be Faithful and Godly until Death.
- **We then join local churches built upon ONLY the one truth of the New Testament**
 - (*Acts 14:21-23; I Corinthians 14:34-37; Galatians 1:6-9*)
 - Local churches are built just as Christ designed: with His leadership model and mission.
 - Local churches follow the Lord’s commandment for them and do not exchange that.
 - Find a local church that first and always asks: “But what does the Bible say?”

May each person find the One True Church. And may they meet with it’s people locally to work and worship. And may those decisions never be based on culture or history, but the all powerful Word of God.