

Which Church Would The Lord Assemble With Today?

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(Developed from a sermon by Sewell Hall presented in Pittsburgh, PA in 1986)

Questions:

- A. What does Jesus want of us today? This lesson is not "What would Jesus do?" which is speculative and subjective, but "What did Jesus say?" which is scriptural and objective.
 - 1. He wants the same thing as His Father.
 - 2. 2Peter 3:9 - He wants us to be saved.
- B. How would Jesus want to accomplish that?
 - 1. The same question was asked in Acts 2:36-37.
 - 2. Peter's sermon caused them to fear retribution and to seek to avoid it.
 - 3. Peter's answer - Acts 2:38-40.
 - 4. It is what Christ wanted him to say - Luke 24:46-49.
 - 5. It's what He told Peter to say about obtaining salvation - Matt. 28:18-20.
- C. How many plans of salvation did Jesus give to His disciples?
 - 1. Jesus did not make exceptions; all people are to be saved by His instructions.
 - 2. If He made exceptions, God would have a double standard.
 - 3. He would be a respecter of persons - Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11
- D. Have conditions changed since then?
 - 1. Does man still need to be saved? - Rom. 3:23, 6:23
 - 2. Has God changed his word? - Gal. 1:8-9; Heb 13:8
 - 3. If that was needed then to be saved, that is what is needed today.
- E. Once we have been baptized and our sins washed away, what do we do next?
 - 1. Most believers know they must become part of a body of believers.
 - 2. Instinctive to become part of a Church - Acts 9:24.
 - 3. Many see that joining with a denomination just divides up the believers.
 - a. John 17:20-21; 1Cor. 1:10
 - b. Different creeds, leaderships, competitiveness, prejudice, etc.
 - c. Fighting among religious groups that profess to be followers of a peaceful Christ!
 - 4. Options:
 - a. Join it anyway, marring their original good intentions,
 - b. Join with the intention to unite all of them together (soon discouraged),
 - c. Give up and worship alone (displeasing to the Lord).
 - 5. There is a fourth option: do what Jesus would do.

I. WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

- A. What denomination would Jesus belong to today?
 - 1. "There were none in his day." Untrue!
 - a. There were a number of sects or parties in his day, equivalent to modern day denominations.

- b. Sadducees - had a great zeal for the temple, but did not believe in the resurrection.
- c. Pharisees - had a great zeal for scriptures, but held to human tradition and hated government.
- d. Herodians - obeyed the government but were morally bankrupt.
- e. Essenes - believed in abstinence & purity, but were isolationists
- f. There were denominations within the first 21 years -
1Cor. 1:12-13, 3:1-4
- 2. Jesus did not become a member of a sect, but was simply a believer and follower of God.
 - a. Did not try to organize all of the sects into one giant super denomination. (No unity in diversity)
 - b. Sought to unite himself with God rather than a sect of men.
 - c. He just did the will of God, His Father -
John 4:23-24, 34, 5:30, 6:38
 - d. What did he accomplish by this? - John 10:30, 37-38
- 3. What denomination would Jesus be a part of today? He would not be part of a sect of men! He would be united in fellowship with God.
- B. What next?
 - 1. The next thing Jesus did after uniting himself with God was to get others to be united with God - John 17:20-21.
 - 2. How; by creating some super denomination?
 - 3. By doing just what Jesus did - John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38.
 - 4. Can we know we are united with God?
 - a. When we keep God's will just like Jesus did - 2John 9; Eph. 3:3-4

II. IF JESUS DID NOT JOIN A DENOMINATION AND DID NOT TEACH US TO JOIN ONE, WHAT DENOMINATION SHOULD WE BECOME A MEMBER OF?

- A. Acts 2 - What denomination did they join?
 - 1. If they were just followers of Christ, why can't we be the same?
 - 2. What sermon would Peter preach if he were here today?
 - a. The same one he did on Pentecost.
 - b. If the message is the same, the response of the hearers should be the same, too.
- B. If Peter preached at the Local High School stadium and 3000 were baptized in the nearest body of water, to what denomination would they belong?
 - 1. They would be believers and followers of Christ!
- C. Suppose some formed a denomination; would that make the rest of the faithful believers and followers of Jesus Christ denominationalists?
- D. Now what do these believers and followers of Christ do when they get home? (Forget the matter?)
 - 1. Do what the believers did in Acts 2:42-47.
 - 2. The believers were in fellowship with each other.
 - 3. They assembled together as a body of followers of Christ, as some of the duties they were given couldn't be carried out individually.

4. Some do not want to be part of a body of believers and followers of Christ as they do not want the responsibilities that come with the privileges.
- E. Groups of believers and followers of Christ in a given area were a local church
1. Acts 2:41, 47
 2. That church had a doctrine - Acts 2:42.
 3. That church had fellowship and sharing - Acts 2:43-46.
 4. That church worshipped together - Acts 2:42, 5:42.
 5. That church had a treasury - Acts 4:31-35.
 6. That church had an organization - Acts 6:1-6, 15:6, 11:29-30.
- F. Not a denomination, but a body of believers and followers of Jesus Christ!
1. There is a difference between a body of believers and followers of Christ and a humanly devised denomination of men.
- G. That Church has a name.
1. Christ is the Head - Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23
 2. Christ is the Builder - Matt. 16:18
 3. Christ is the foundation - Eph. 2:19-20; 1Cor. 3:11
 4. Christ's blood bought - Acts 20:28
 5. Christ is Savior of the Church - Eph. 5:23
 6. Christ's doctrine rules it - 2John 9-11
 7. The Church is the Bride of Christ - Rom. 7:4
 8. The Body of Christ - Col. 1:18, 24
 9. All Blessings are in Christ - Eph. 1:3
 10. We are baptized into Christ - Gal. 3:26-27; 1Cor. 12:12-13
 11. We must preach Christ only - Acts 8:4-5, 12; 1Cor. 2:2
 12. Salvation is only in Christ - Acts 4:12; John 14:6
- H. Whose name should the Church wear?!
1. Jesus Christ would assemble with the Church that wears His name.
 2. Col. 1:18
 3. And now, where will you choose to assemble?