

WHAT AM I REJECTING?
(Luke 9:22)

I. You reject the Bible teaching that there is only one church.

- A. Matthew 16:16-18.
 - 1. Jesus said He would build “my church.”
 - 2. It is a singular word, signifying the singular nature of it.
- B. Paul tells us that there is one Head and one body (Colossians 1:18 & Ephesians 4:4).
- C. Notice Ephesians 5:23-32.
 - 1. In this text, there are 12 pronouns and nouns used to identify the church.
 - 2. Each of them is singular.
- D. When you read the word “churches” in your New Testament, there is no reference to denominations because such did not exist then and should not now.
- E. Denominationalism, as we know it, did not come into existence until 1500 years after the words of Jesus.
 - 1. It began with Luther.
 - 2. This was in the year 1517.
- F. Paul told the Corinthians that he taught the same thing in every church (1 Corinthians 4:17).
 - 1. This couldn’t mean that Paul taught in various denominations.
 - 2. We know this because they all teach different things.
- G. Denominationalism rejects biblical teaching about the one church.

II. You reject the Bible teaching regarding a pattern for worship.

- A. Acts 2:42.
- B. Nadab and Abihu rejected God’s pattern for worship (Leviticus 10:1-3).
- C. Moses was shown a pattern that he was to follow (Hebrews 8:5).
 - 1. Moses was shown exactly what God wanted made.
 - 2. The word “shown” indicates something clearly revealed.
- D. The sins of Jeroboam for which Northern Kingdom kings were charged with following were sins in which worship was changed.
- E. There is a pattern for every aspect of worship.
 - 1. Prayer (Matthew 6:1; 1 Timothy 2:8-9).
 - 2. Music - singing (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19).
 - 3. Preaching - Mark 16:15-16; 2 Timothy 4:1-4.
 - 4. The Lord’s Supper (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:18ff).
 - 5. Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).
- F. Our worship is to be in spirit and in truth.
 - 1. We are to have the right attitude.
 - 2. We are to worship in truth, which means in accordance with God’s word (John 17:17).

III. You reject that God’s truth can be known, understood and agreed upon.

- A. Paul told the Ephesians they could understand what the gospel (Ephesians 3:4).

- B. 1 Corinthians 1:10.
- C. While Paul was in Rome, Jews came to study with him and some disbelieved and they could not agree (Acts 28:17-31).
 - 1. Others did believe.
 - 2. In other words, they agreed with God's word that came through Paul.
- D. Jesus said we can know the truth if we want to (John 8:31-32).
- E. John said there were people who knew the truth (1 John 2:21).

IV. You reject the idea that doctrine is important.

- A. There is such a thing as sound, or healthy, doctrine (Titus 2:1).
- B. It strengthens us and we should take heed to it and continue in it (1 Timothy 4:6).
- C. Doctrine has a definite form (Romans 6:17).
- D. It is something for which we should contend (Jude 3).

V. You reject that the church of the New Testament can be identified.

- A. Acts 9:2 ("the way").
- B. Acts 28:22 - it was everywhere spoken against - people knew it.
- C. Suppose I took my children to a theme park and became separated from one of them.
 - 1. Suppose every child there was 5 to 8 years old and the same build and hair color to my child that is lost.
 - 2. Will I worry that I will never find him because so many look like him?
 - 3. Not at all because he is unique among all others.
 - 4. My child has specific characteristics that make him unique from all the other children and which will allow me to tell him apart from the other children.
- D. The same can be said of the Lord's church.
 - 1. Jesus said He would build His church.
 - 2. Jesus did not promise to build churches, but His church.
 - 3. Since Jesus only established one church, that would seem to cut down on one's choices.

VI. You fail to make Jesus' prayer for unity a reality.

- A. John 17:17-23.
 - 1. Denominationalism cannot be reconciled with this prayer of Jesus in any way.
 - 2. Jesus prayed for unity and denominationalism promotes disunity.
- B. 1 Corinthians 1:10 - we are to speak and think the same thing when it comes to doctrine.
- C. Romans 16:17 - notice how we are to react to those who cause division to exist.
- D. Seed produces after its kind and the seed is God's word (Luke 8:11).
 - 1. You can plant tomato seeds in China and you will get tomatoes.
 - 2. You plant the word of God in people's hearts and you will produce only Christians.
 - 3. This is the only thing God's word can produce.

- E. The Bible does not create Methodists, Baptists, Pentecostals or any other denominational body.

VII. You forsake the Lord.

- A. Romans 7:1-4 - in the church we are joined to Christ.
- B. It is impossible to separate Christ from His church.
 - 1. Acts 8:3; 9:4.
 - 2. Acts 26:9-11.
- C. Matthew 25:31-46 - I forsake the Lord when I forsake His people.