

Church Names

by Wayne Goff

Just recently in Parkville a Baptist Church has changed its name to one of *the more politically acceptable* generic church names. The idea is that “Baptist” turns off people who might otherwise attend there. I think it also shows *the loose fellowship* that exists between denominations who only require a potential member to “accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.” But there is **more** to these name changes than meets the eye.

I also believe it reflects *the watering down feature* of these denomination’s doctrine. No longer do they stand firmly for their doctrine, whether it is contained in the Bible(?) or their church creed. These churches are dying on the vine, and in a last gasp effort, they will change their names to appeal to a larger audience. But it is not working!

You and I should not be “**ashamed**” of the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16) nor of the name “*church of Christ.*” We should recognize that our **creed** is the New Testament, and our **doctrine** is “*of Christ*” (2 Jn. 9). If this is a “turn off” to some people, then we must unapologetically stand for the Truth while speaking it “*in love*” (Eph. 4:15).

The Lord’s church has **never** been one that first appealed to man, and then secondly to the Lord! The great apostle Paul stated: “*...For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ*” (Gal. 1:10). Gospel preachers are to declare “*the whole counsel of God*” (Acts 20:27), and it is to be preached “*in season and out of season*” (2 Tim. 4:2). It is an ever slippery slope that seeks to please men, for man is ever vacillating in his views and ideas. He does not know the way he should walk (Jer. 10:23), and he needs to humbly submit to the will and authority of God.

For those who think the preaching is “too hard,” perhaps they should take an honest look at their own hearts and lives and see if there is a change in heart or lives needed. You know what they say: “the hit dog howls!”

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