

“It Doesn’t Make Any Difference” —

Yes, But It Does!

by Bill Crews

Perhaps the most widespread and deeply-rooted idea in religion today is the philosophy which says, **“It doesn’t make any difference.”** This popular philosophy has led many to refuse to investigate, even the Bible. Out of it has grown the refusal on the part of many to question and examine their own religious profession. It has placed such a premium on honesty and sincerity that all else is declared unimportant or non-essential. It is the number one defender of religious division, human creeds and human organizations. This philosophy says:

1. “It doesn’t make any difference what one believes religiously, just so he believes and just so he is sincere in his belief.” This is like saying, “It doesn’t make any difference what one eats, just so he eats.” But the faith that God requires must come by our hearing the word of the Lord (Romans 10:17). We must **believe** God (by **believing** what He says, Acts 27:25); we must believe that God is and that He is a rewarder of them that seek after Him (according to Hebrews 11:6); we must believe that He is the Son of God (according to John 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 8:36-37); we must believe what God has said through Christ, which is the gospel of Christ (according to Hebrews 1:1-2; Mark 16:15-16).

2. “It doesn’t make any difference what one practices in religion, just so he is sincere in his practice.” But Jesus said, *“But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as their doctrine the precepts of men”* (Matthew 15:9). We must hear and do what Jesus has taught (according to Matthew 7:24-27, 21). We must abide **in** the doctrine of Christ and not go beyond it (according to 2 John 9). Any religious practice for which authority cannot be found in the New Testament is sin (according to Colossians 3:17).

3. “It doesn’t make any difference what religious creed one embraces, just so he does it honestly and conscientiously.” But the New Testament of Christ states that there is *“one faith”* (Ephesians 4:5), that it was *“once for all delivered”* by God to the saints (Jude 3), and that we are to *“obey”* it (Acts 6:7), *“continue in”* it (Acts 14:22), and *“contend for”* it (Jude 3). Creeds (manuals, disciplines, confessions of faith, catechisms) are of men, but the New Testament is of God.

4. “It doesn’t make any difference what church one belongs to; in fact, one doesn’t have to belong to any.” There are well over 300 “mainline churches” in existence (all varying in origin, age, size, doctrine, worship, organization and mission), but one of them must stand alone. Jesus said, *“Upon this rock I will build my church”* (Matthew 16: 18). He gave Himself up for **it** in His crucifixion (Ephesians 5:25), purchased **it** with His own blood (Acts 20:28), adds the saved to **it** (Acts 2:47), is head over **it** (Colossians 1:18), is the Savior of **it** (Ephesians 5:23), and will one day deliver **it** up to God the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24). It exists to make known the manifold wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10-11); therein God is to be glorified (Ephesians 3:20-21). These things are not true of the churches founded by men. The Lord’s church has neither ceased to exist nor been altered by the passing of time or the efforts of men.

333303