

## Religious Division Does Not Promote Faith In Christ

---

by Bill Crews

[continued from page 330802](#)

go beyond the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11). All teachers were to speak as the oracles of God (the Scriptures, 1 Peter 4:11). There was to be no adding to or taking from the revealed word (Revelation 22:18-19). There would be false teachers and false prophets, they were warned (2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4: 1). There would be departures, apostasies (Acts 20:29-30; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4).

### The Rise Of Religious Division & Its Fruit

Gradual departures from the pattern of truth revealed by the apostles — departures involving doctrine, organization, worship, and work — led to the evolution of the various Catholic denominations. Various protests and efforts toward reform resulted in the founding of many Protestant denominations. Others arose independently or through schisms from existing bodies. Many were the fruit of the labors of some strong, persuasive personalities. Various human creeds were written: catechisms, manuals, disciplines, confessions of faith, articles of religion, constitutions. Through it all, divine approval and divine guidance was claimed (all insisted they were “led by the Spirit”), but how could that be the case? Today all of those who claim to be Christians, followers of Christ, genuine believers, are fractured into hundreds of divided groups — wearing different religious names, teaching different religious doctrines, subscribing to different religious creeds, worshiping God in different ways, engaging in different religious practices, most insisting that they are simply doing the Lord’s will. Many religious leaders say that it’s all all right; some even maintain that it’s beneficial. **BUT IS IT?** Is this what Jesus wanted? Is this what He prayed for? Does all this division and confusion promote faith in Christ among those who have subscribed to worldliness, materialism, atheism, paganism, and Judaism? Or does it rather promote unbelief?

### A Solution: Our Plea

We who constitute the Roanridge church of Christ wear no human names and subscribe to no human creeds.

We are striving to be just Christians, to constitute a church that belongs to Christ. We believe that the same gospel that was preached in the first century, that is found in the New Testament of Christ, when preached in the twenty-first century, will produce the same thing now that it did then — just Christians, who will then constitute churches that are “of Christ.” We plead with others to do the same.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This excellent article from brother Crews should be spread abroad. Some among us today wish to fellowship those in religious error among various denominations, believing that they are somehow “Christians.” While we wish to fellowship everyone who is in fellowship with Christ (1 Jn. 1:1-3), we must sincerely oppose those who claim to be Christians by following any doctrine not of the New Testament (2 John 9-11). Honesty and sincerity is not sufficient; those who have been deceived are still in error! We cannot fellowship error.

330803