

Who Is Right?

by Bill Crews

It may be difficult for us to see things as God wants us to see them, because we are so busy seeing things as we believe they ought to be. It may be difficult for us to see the New Testament picture of the church in the first century because we are so accustomed to churches of the twentieth century.

Six thousand years of human history bear witness to the truth that in religion God's way always works and man's ways always fail. The only sensible path to pursue is the path that God has laid out for us — in the revelation of His will. The passing of time adds to the mountain of human ways, ideas, philosophies, creeds and churches, but it cannot improve upon God's word (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Twenty centuries past, Jesus built His church, and the apostles revealed His will. Men can improve upon neither, but the need of the hour is that we learn to be content with both. The New Testament is still intact; the Lord's church is yet the same.

For various reasons men have written creeds and established churches. We are not so much concerned about their motives as we are about the fruit and consequences of their labors. Honest souls are divided in religion and do not believe that there is any specific answer. Asking, "**Who is right?**," they decide that no one is entitled to the claim, that such would be presumptuous gall, that, therefore, all who are sincere are right. But think, friends; *God's word is right, and they only can be right who conform to and uphold that word.*

In faithful churches of Christ today we have nothing except an effort to conform to God's pattern. We know that whatsoever cannot be authorized by the Bible, whether human organizations, creeds, ideas, ways, practices or names, will result in departures and division. We are not pleading for "our way" over "your way," but for God's way over men's ways. The all-important question is: "**Are you conforming to God's way?**" Such produces unity and the Lord's church, not division and denominations.

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