

Some Thoughts on — RELIGIOUS DIVISION

by Bill Crews

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lead to the same city and rivers that flow into the same ocean." Or, "God be thanked for the many churches that every man can belong to the church of his choice." Or, "Since there are good people in all churches and good in all churches, all churches are good." Or, "Since we are all trying to serve the same God and reach the same heaven, we should work together in love and tolerance." Or, "We are agreed on so many things, and all of our differences are insignificant." These are not Biblical statements or principles. They are the statements and declarations of men.

Our Plea

If that last statement is true, then why were the various denominations — there are hundreds of them with sizable memberships — founded in the first place? (in their inceptions these differences were not regarded as insignificant) and why do they still continue? (if the differences are now regarded as insignificant). All do agree that the followers of Christ were called "Christians" in the New Testament, and all agree that "churches of Christ" is a scriptural designation. Most agree that the New Testament is an adequate guide. Then why maintain and uphold religious division? Why hold on to and demand allegiance to catechisms, manuals, disciplines, articles of faith and confessions of faith written by fallible men? The New Testament was written by men guided by the Holy Spirit, and it is inspired and infallible. Why insist upon being Catholics, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Nazarenes, Pentecostals, etc.? Our simple plea is that those who profess to be and desire to be followers of Christ give up human names, human doctrines and creeds, human organizations, and human practices and become simply Christians, members of the church of Christ, governed and guided by the New Testament of Christ.

From Where Do You Get Your Beliefs?

by Wayne Goff

I know Christians **claim** to believe the Bible, and especially the New Testament as our sole rule of faith and practice, but in reality many forsake the Bible when it's **inconvenient** for them to believe it!

During this recent pandemic I was amazed how quickly some brethren gave up the biblical truth that the Lord's Supper is to be observed **in the assembly (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-26)**. One well-known gospel preacher argued for taking the Lord's Supper outside the assembly on the basis that the Corinthian letter was nothing more than "culturally" based, and that Paul surely took the Lord's Supper while traveling on a ship, etc.! And some gullible brethren accepted that because it fit their wants and wishes! It was sickening to me. When sound brethren questioned his position, his response was nothing more than "Thank you for your opinion." Brother, this is **not** a matter of opinion! It is a matter of faith!

But some brethren are also caving in on the New Testament teaching on marriage/divorce, homosexuality, transgenderism, etc. on the basis that they do not want to be "judgmental." However, God is the Judge, not us. We are simply declaring His infallible word on the subject.

All of this makes me wonder about some of my brethren: "From where do you get your beliefs?"

Obviously not from the Bible!

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