

The Church Jesus Built

Introduction:

- A. When people ask, “What denomination are you a member of?”, I reply, “I’m not a member of any denomination. I’m just a Christian.”
 - B. That doesn’t mean I’m not a member of any church. I’m a member of the church Jesus built. - Matthew 16:13-18
 - C. What is the church built by Jesus?
- I. The church Jesus built is **NOT** a denomination.
- A. Most people think the church is just another denomination. - definition of “church”: “denomination” (**Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary**)
 - B. Is the church Jesus built a denomination?
 - 1. What is a denomination?
 - a. “a religious organization uniting in a single legal and administrative body a number of local congregations” (Ibid), i.e., organization
 - b. Each denomination also has a creed and a party name (F.E. Mayer, **The Religious Bodies of America**. 3
 - 2. Does the church Jesus built have the characteristics of a denomination?
 - a. no organization larger than, smaller than, or other than local congregations - Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 1:2
 - b. no human creed - Revelation 22:18-19; cf. Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 1:23
 - c. no party name - 1 Corinthians 1:10-13
- II. The church is the body of Christ. - Ephesians 1:22-23
- A. Christ has only one body. - Ephesians 4:4
 - B. It is composed of all saved people. - Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47
 - C. It is the assembly of people called out of the world into fellowship with Christ. - Hebrews 12:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18; 1 John 1:3
- Conclusion:
- A. I do not ask you to join any denomination, subscribe to any human creed, or wear any sectarian name.
 - B. I earnestly desire that you obey the gospel so that you might be added by the Lord to the church, for only there is salvation to be found. - 2 Timothy 2:10
 - C. Will you not come to Christ and be saved? - John 14:6