Where Did They All Come From?

Adam Willingham · Matthew 16:13–18 · Series: **A History of The Churches**

INTRODUCTION

- Thousands and thousands of denominations and doctrines exist in the world of Christianity today. How did this come about? Is this what God desires? And does it really matter?

1 I Will Build My Church, Singular

Matthew 16:18; John 17:17–21

- Upon this rock I will build my church. And the gates of Hades will not overpower it.
- He did not say, I will build my churches. He said, I will build my church, singular.
- Jesus is praying here fervently for unity among believers.

2 Scriptural Unity Is Based on Truth

1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Revelation 22:18–19

- Unity, scriptural unity is based on truth. It is not based on an absence of conviction, but unity is based on the presence of the conviction of truth.
- So it is very plain that we need nothing more than scriptures to make us complete for every good work.
- So do not add, do not take away what we have revealed, needs to stay that way.

3 A Continual, Gradual Departure From the New Testament

1 Timothy 4:1; Philippians 1:1; Ephesians 1:22

- Really, this is going to be a continual, gradual departure from what the New Testament says.
- The New Testament church organization was simply every church had elders and deacons.
- When you have a work of man put on par with the work of God, then it becomes problematic.
- Now the New Testament tells us that Christ is the only head of the church.

4 Protest and Reformation

1 Corinthians 1:12–13; Mark 16:16

- Faith cannot be the only condition for salvation because of such passages as James.
- Paul is saying, hey, don't you dare call yourself after me. And Luther told his followers, don't you dare call yourself after me.
- So a believer's baptism is what is taught in the New Testament.
- But the Bible teaches that there is free will.

5 Non-Denominational Churches and Churches of Christ

Romans 16:16

- The term non-denominational has really come to mean any denominational.

- The term church of Christ is a term found in the Bible. In Romans 16, the churches of Christ greet you.
- All that matters is whether we actually are the church, the body of the saved that belong to Jesus Christ.
- To use the Bible and the Bible only as our standard of authority and no man-made creed whatsoever.

6 Six Characteristics of a Scriptural New Testament Church

Acts 2:47; Romans 10:9–10; Acts 2:38

- First of all, does it have a scriptural name?
- Secondly, a scriptural creed. I don't mean a man made creed. I mean the creed itself is the Bible.
- A third indicator is scriptural organization. Remember Philippians 1, elders, plural, and deacons in the local church. No hierarchy.
- A fourth indicator is scriptural worship. When you come, is there singing, praying, taking of the Lord's Supper, preaching and giving, and nothing more.
- The mission of the church in the New Testament is to be the pillar and ground of the truth. It is a spiritual mission of benevolence to saints, of edification to saints, and of evangelism to the unconverted.
- A sixth and final characteristic is scriptural conditions of salvation.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Forget all of the division and confusion that we see out there. If we plant this, what will it produce? Exactly what God desires.**

MY NOTES