

Is One Denomination As Good As Another?

Yes! By definition a denomination is a religious sect that was founded usually around the teachings of one man. For example, Baptist doctrine was formed around the beliefs of John Smith and Roger Williams; Lutheran doctrine from Martin Luther; Presbyterian doctrine from John Calvin; Episcopal doctrine from Henry VIII; and Methodist doctrine from John Wesley. The teachings of Martin Luther and John Calvin have greatly influenced most of these denominations.

Jesus said, "*I will build My church*" (Matthew 16:18). Ephesians 4:4 states that all "religious plurality" today is wrong, for there is but "one body" or church. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3-9, Paul said that the coming of the Lord would not happen until the church fell away. We know from history that the Lord's church, in later centuries, did develop into something that was not revealed in the pages of the New Testament. If all denominations are the eventual result of this apostasy and if their doctrines do not reflect what is in the New Testament, then they are wrong. If they are wrong, then one denomination would be as good as another.

In all fairness, denominations were the outgrowth of the Reformation which sought to correct the doctrinal error of the Catholic Church. But they did not go far enough. They brought with them doctrines derived from the Catholic Church or doctrines which were at the extreme opposite end of the Catholic Church. One needs to appreciate the effort to change doctrines which are wrong, but one needs to fully follow the truth that is revealed in the Bible.

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