

The Lord's Church Vs. Denominations

There are several significant differences between the Lord's church, as revealed in the New Testament, and religious denominations. We are going to examine four of them.

First, they differ in their nature. The Lord's church contains only those who are saved by God's direction (Acts 2:47). It contains those who have been "called out" of the world (2 Thessalonians 2:14). It is exclusive in its nature. Denominations accept into their fellowship those who have been "saved" by methods of human wisdom, making them inclusive in their nature. Second, they differ in their standard. The Lord's church uses only the Bible (Colossians 3:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Denominations use culture as their standard. They change constantly to fit the world and remain attractive to people.

Third, they differ in their function. The Lord's church has a spiritual function (John 6:63; 1 Timothy 3:15). Its mission is to save souls (Luke 19:10). Denominations have a social function. They cater to the outer man with daycare centers, hospitals, benevolent programs, entertainment, recreation, divorce recovery, weight loss, etc. Fourth, they differ in their government. The Lord's church has Christ as its sole head with complete authority (Ephesians 1:22-23). Individual churches are overseen by elders (1 Peter 5:2), with deacons who serve the congregation (Acts 6:1-6). Denominations have people as their head. They are controlled by councils, conventions, boards, and synods.

When these distinctions are blurred, the Lord's church becomes just another denomination. If you are ready for something better religiously, contact us for a study.

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