

- B. The seed is the word of God (Luke 8:11), and will produce today what it produced in the first century — undenominational or predenominational Christians! The message of Christ as set forth in the New Testament is both understandable and doable (Matthew 7:21; Acts 17:11; Ephesians 3:3-5; James 1:22). Through adherence to the doctrine of Christ we can be Christians without being members of any denomination. And we can constitute ourselves into local churches without denominational status.

II. If We Maintain A Clear Biblical Concept Of The Church

- A. The church is composed of all who have been redeemed from their sins by the blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9). All who have obeyed the gospel by believing in Christ as the Son of God, repenting of their sins, confessing their faith in Christ, and being immersed for the remission of their sins have been cleansed by the blood of Christ (Romans 6:1-6, 16-18) and incorporated into the body of Christ (Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 12:13), which is the same as being “translated into the kingdom of His dear Son” (Colossians 1:13).
- B. God has only one body of blood-washed people. Denominationalism is contrary to the prayer of Christ (John 17:20-21) and the plea of Paul (1 Corinthians 1:10). Division among professed Christians effectively denies and dishonors the platform of oneness laid down by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:1-6). Factions, divisions, and parties are works of the flesh, and those who practice such will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21). To comply with the conditions for being a member of a denomination is not equal to obeying the gospel and being added to the Lord’s church.

III. If We Will Use Undenominational Language

- A. The church does not have an exclusive, trademarked name. It is described in various ways: the kingdom of Heaven/God/Christ (Matthew 16:18; John 3:3, 5; Colossians 1:13), the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18), the house (household/family) of God (1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 3:6), the temple of God (Ephesians 2:19-22), my (Christ’s) church (Matthew 16:18), the church of God (1 Corinthians 1:2; 11:22), churches of God (1 Corinthians 11:16), church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23), and churches of Christ (Romans 16:16).
- B. As a casual reader of the New Testament knows, most often it is referred to simply as “the church.” When we take the biblical descriptions of the church and turn it into an exclusive “name” for the church, and use it in a denominational sense to speak of “Church of Christ” congregations, preachers, elders, publications, etc., we do the cause of Christ and the plea for undenominational Christianity a great injustice. By such language of Ashdod (Nehemiah 13:23-24) we communicate a denominational view of the church and play into the hands of denominationalists, leading them to say, “See, you are a denomination just like the rest of us.” Think before you resort to such sectarian and denominational language and betray the cause for which Christ died.