

The Voice of History

The record of the past 20 centuries reveals these facts concerning prominent religious sects:

Church	Time	Place	Founder
Roman Catholic	606 AD	Rome	Boniface III
Lutheran	1520 AD	Germany	Martin Luther
Episcopal	1534 AD	England	Henry VIII
Presbyterian	1536 AD	Switzerland	John Calvin
Congregational	1550 AD	England	Robert Browne
Baptist	1607 AD	Holland	John Smythe
Methodist	1739 AD	England	John Wesley
Mormon	1830 AD	America	Joseph Smith
7th Day Adventist	1860 AD	America	Ellen G. White
Christian Science	1866 AD	America	Mary Baker Eddy
Jehovah's Witness	1872 AD	America	Charles T. Russell

Examine these "churches" very carefully!

- ☛ **Were they established at the right time?**
- ☛ **Were they established in the right place?**
- ☛ **Were they founded by the right person?**
- ☛ **Are their members called by the right name?**

Whose Voice will we obey?

The Voice of History?

-or-

The Voice of God?

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Words of Life

Westside
church of Christ

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



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The Church Jesus Built (Part 14)
The Sin of Denominationalism (#2)

Craig Thomas

Last time we noted that a denomination is a distinct religious group with a peculiar name, doctrine, organization, terms of membership, etc. Example denominations include religious groups such as: Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Catholic, Presbyterian, etc. We considered some New Testament (NT) principles "denominationalism" violates; let's consider some more.

1) **Jesus Prayer For Unity.** Just prior to entering Gethsemane the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed for the disciples (Jn. 17). Note some of our Lord's prayer, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us..." (Jn. 17:20-21). By praying for the unity of believers, Jesus revealed two critical truths: (1) Unity is possible, and (2) unity is desired by God. Thus, denominationalism (sectarianism) is against Jesus and His prayer! It is "anti-God"! Note Jesus said we will become believers "through their word," through the word of the apostles as they were guided "into all truth" by "the Spirit of truth" (Jn. 16:13). The "all truth" is found only in God's word (Jn. 17:17; Jude 3). Religious division (denominationalism) occurs when men elevate their doctrines to the level of the inspired word. Unity can only be achieved as men go back to the Bible alone, speaking where it speaks, remaining silent where it is silent (1 Pet. 4:11). Christians can only be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10) when each of us, with humility and determination, abides in Christ's doctrine (2 Jn. 9-11) revealed in the Bible and reject denominational doctrines, creeds, and catechisms.

2) **God's Plan For Unity.** In Ephesians 4 Paul reveals God's plan for unity: "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph. 4:3-6). Notice Paul said we must "endeavor" to keep unity, that is, we must work at it! It is also the "unity of the Spirit" in that it is based on what is revealed by the Holy Spirit in God's book the Bible. Note the seven one's Paul lists: "one body," "one Spirit," "one hope," "one Lord," "one faith," "one baptism," and "one

God.” Denominationalism teaches the exact opposite of God’s plan for unity! For example, they teach not “one body” but that there are “many bodies.. They teach not that there is “one faith,” but that there are “many faiths.” Such teachings may satisfy the “politically correct” world we live in, but these teachings are opposed to God’s revealed will.

Facts About Alcohol

Wayne Goff

A NARCOTIC. (1) It is the number one drug problem in this country. (2) It claims at least 100,000 lives every year, 25 times as many as illegal drugs combined. (3) No logical, rational thinking person can deny the destructive nature of alcohol.

NOT MENTIONED BY ALCOHOL INDUSTRY. (1) It is associated with most crimes. It is a factor in 70% of all murders. It is a factor in 50% of all rapes. It is a factor in 60% of all sexual crimes against children. It is a factor in 55% of all arrests. (2) It is a serious safety hazard. It is a factor in 66% of all fatal auto accidents. It is a factor in 53% of all fire deaths. It is a factor in 36% of pedestrian accidents. It is a factor in 22% of all home accidents. It is a factor in 45% of all drownings.

IS IT JUST THE “ABUSE” OF ALCOHOL? Some say, “I drink beer, not liquor.” (1) I believe them. America consumed 6.3 billion gallons of beer last year. (2) 85.5% of all alcohol consumption was in beer in 2005. (3) But what’s the benefit of that? What is positive about that? 80% of drivers arrested for DWI were drinking only beer. Someone in the U.S. dies every 30 minutes in an alcohol related death (primarily from beer). Alcohol related car crashes cost an estimated \$44 billion annually. Someone in the U.S. dies every 50 minutes in an alcohol related death (primarily from beer). There never has been an alcoholic who didn’t take that first drink!

WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT SOCIAL DRINKING? Our government has tried in every way possible to legislate tobacco out of existence. But our government has not touched the alcohol problem which is many times more deadly and costly to people than tobacco ever was or ever will be! Moreover, our government has deemed that stores that sell alcohol and marijuana are “necessary”! One explanation given was that too many people are addicted to these drugs and it would place an unnecessary hardship on those who are dealing with their addictions (Newsweek, April 18, 2020). Another explanation given was that it falls under the “food and agricultural” category. “This category includes groceries, pharmacies, convenience stores, and other retailers that sell human food, animal or pet food, and beverage products. Restaurants with carryout or delivery service fall into this category as well. Liquor stores obviously sell beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. They often also sell snack foods. Many states allow convenience stores to sell alcohol. Mystery solved” (Psychology Today, March 27, 2020). The article went on to point out that the taxes gathered by local, state and federal agencies is significant. It also suggested that the long shadow of the 1920 Prohibition Act is a reason for the decision. Illegal alcohol and drugs can be a real headache for the government to deal with, as the remembrance of Al Capone and his gang is considered. I’m also sure

that the fact that many, if not most, of our government officials drink beer, wine, and liquor. So it’s up to you to keep in mind the dangers of alcohol, and to share the facts to warn others!

The Bible and Drinking

John Edwards

Proverbs 20:1: “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

Proverbs 21:17: “He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.”

Proverbs 23:21: “For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.”

Proverbs 23:29-35: “Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.”

Isaiah 5:11: “Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!”

Isaiah 5:22: “Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink.”

Isaiah 28:7: “But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.”

Hosea 4:11: “Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.”

Habakkuk 2:15: “Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!”

Romans 13:13: “Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-10: “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?...nor drunkards...”

Galatians 5:19-21: “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these... drunkenness...”

Ephesians 5:18: “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

1 Timothy 3:3: “Not given to wine...”

1 Peter 4:3: “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries.”