



General Topics :: The End of Denominations

The End of Denominations - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/9/5 19:52

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13 NASB)

I believe the practical ramifications of this passage teaches that the Lord will eventually bring an end to the denominational and party spirit that exists within Christianity right now. Before the return of the Lord, and on this side of glory, we will see a corporate maturity and unity attained.

I have much more I can say on the subject, but, I just thought I'd invite feedback for the time being.

Many blessings,

Jimmy

Re: The End of Denominations - posted by Koheleth, on: 2010/9/5 20:56

The Lord not only will "eventually" bring an end to denominations, but he has already many times over. Wherever more of true Christianity has existed, there has been less of the denomination and party spirit. Wherever there has been the exalting of Christ, worship, prayer, revival, the Word, the Spirit, and fellowship, the denomination has never existed. And if they were present, their walls fell like those of Jericho. On the other hand, as long as men remain on the earth, there will be divisions, sects, and denominations as long as man is not perfect and true to God. This is not just a matter of doctrinal knowledge about unity, but unity is primarily a matter of the spirit.

Also, divisions are sometimes spoken of as good in the Bible. Divisions can allow for the recognition of those who are approved (by God) and are a means of cleansing the church of those who do not really and deeply desire to follow him. If so, divisions will never cease.

I don't believe the church has been in the dark for 2,000 years and will soon come to the light of spiritual maturity on this topic. Rather, it is something that ebbs and flows with the time and place and people.

Re: The End of Denominations, on: 2010/9/5 20:56

John 17! The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus.

John 17.

don't you think?

"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you love me."

John 17:22-23 (ESV)

Re: The End of Denominations - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2010/9/5 21:01

GOD will shake the tree of denominations; so that only the true fruit will remain. Jesus desire and prayer was that we be made ONE in the Father, Son, Spirit!! The Body of Christ is One!!

Re: The End of Denominations, on: 2010/9/5 21:16

It is my understanding that there is a fullness of this mature man in every generation. Denominations, sects, will continue as they should, but we who are enlightened must put away childish things. When Paul left the scene, just as he said they would, wolves who would not spare the flock ushered in with party cliques of every kind. Movements sprang up, teachings, doctrines and creeds began to separate the people. There was so much confusion that a council had gathered together to find out what was true and what was false.

I understand through revivals throughout history that there is a mature body that is fulfilling the call of God in their lives. Than that generation dies and a whole new crop is being birthed to bring forth fruit.

It's the bearing of fruit that tells us that we have reached maturity, or better yet the Christ has grown up in us. 2Tim 3:17

Only a few reach this point and than it spreads like fire. The few that laboured complains about the one that only laboured but one hour and they are bearing fruit which took the first ones a long time to reach. It takes a lot of time for the Lord to bring in wisdom, knowledge and understanding which has been let down by each generation that relaxes and allows the light to grow dim. But once it's established again in those that are willing to stand for it, it's easy for the Holy Spirit to move and not be grieved. We can see that in the revivals that spread through the Hebrides. Bars and dance halls emptied because a few people got alone with God and reached maturity.

These are only thoughts.

Re: - posted by Goldminer (), on: 2010/9/5 21:54

I have noticed a common thread in my 34 years of walking with the Lord, those who are on fire for Him don't care a hoot about denominational lines, or sects. It has always been instant fellowship with such folks. I find great joy in this, because it is God breathed. We instantly know we are in the same family.

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2010/9/5 22:05

hi,i learned many years ago that God loves variety ...He makes sure that we are all so different that we need a denomination almost for ourselves ...that is why we are to be all things to all people so that we win some as we did today at lunch ... i like the 100 and up denominations...lol jimp

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/9/6 9:15

Good thoughts one and all. I appreciate the feedback. I have found it interesting how quick many are to assume that denominations are a good thing, and in some sense needed. Some sense of "blessing" is thought to be associated with them.

In my opinion though, all denominations, even the better one's, are all Ishmael's. They are the product of the flesh and what man does in his own strength, independent of God's word and His promises. Abraham even thought Ishmael was good, and a blessing. But God saw only one child in Abraham.

Re: - posted by Goldminer (), on: 2010/9/6 9:48

Years ago I read a book by Watchman Nee in which he withdrew his membership in a denomination because he felt according to the word is was divisive. I had to agree with him, so I have never signed a membership in any church. We are one loaf and one body.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/9/6 9:53

I have thought about doing such before. But I've decided that by officially joining a local church, even if that technically makes me part of a denomination, my loyalty is ultimately only to the local church I've joined. At best, I look at my association with the denomination as a way of networking with other local churches in the area. But sometimes, I've found in some denominations, they have little to no involvement with sister churches under the denominational label, even if they are only down the street.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/9/6 10:15

So, to brainstorm, if the Lord will do as Ephesians 4:11-13 says, and if denominations are to come to an end, then practically speaking, how do you suppose He will do that? My conviction is that the Lord will use the difficult times that come upon the world in the last days to sift and refine the Church. In this process, the demands put upon the Church in the last days will demand the Church make a decision to follow Christ, pressing on unto maturity, and in doing so, will be forced to abandon everything that is not born of the Spirit of God.

At the same time though, I believe the Lord has been waking believers up to these truths concerning denominations being something born out of a schismatic attitude and hero worship than anything having to do with the Spirit of God. In part, I believe that is why many within the Church today have little to no loyalty to the denomination they may belong to. Indeed, in part the rise of the "non-denominational" movement is probably a reflection of this.

Re: - posted by Goldminer (), on: 2010/9/6 11:03

I feel after further thought that I need to clarify a few things about my stand to not sign on the dotted line. I am in submission to those who are in leadership over me. I shared with my pastor about why I feel restrained from "joining" a church on paper. He was very understanding and still has the heart to allow me to participate in everything. He has never made me feel like a partial member.

I also know that just because folks have signed on the dotted line does not mean they are there or take part. In fact I who have not signed on the dotted line am there all the time, and many of those who did sign are seldom there and many don't participate at all.

I do believe what will happen is that persecution and difficult times will make us all band together as one. I actually look forward to those days. We will find out just how wonderful community really is.

I saw pictures this morning of muslims bowing down in the streets on New York City in prayer, while christians can't even have a cross on in many places, Salvation Army workers could not wear their T-shirts with SA logos on them while helping with disaster relief. The tides are turning, and on the surface they are not in our favor. But what does that matter we are in His favor and that is all that matters. We shall overcome and be with Him where He is. Hallelujah!!!! We just need to bring as many as possible with us.

I have been reading the early church fathers, Ignatius and the others had no fear of death, and in fact welcomed it so they might see Him face to face. We need that heart in us for the days ahead. We need not fear what is coming on the earth because we know Who wins.

Re: - posted by ADisciple (), on: 2010/9/6 11:05

Jimmy said, "I have thought about doing such before. But I've decided that by officially joining a local church, even if that technically makes me part of a denomination, my loyalty is ultimately only to the local church I've joined. At best, I look at my association with the denomination as a way of networking with other local churches in the area. But sometimes, I've found in some denominations, they have little to no involvement with sister churches under the denominational label, even if they are only down the street."

If you believe the Lord plans to put an end to denominationalism, what about identifying with what you believe, Jimmy?

...Or are you concerned you might lose out on that "networking" advantage that membership in the denomination gets you? If you can't produce your membership card, you might be suspect, ay? They might not let you behind the pulpit.

Of course, identifying with the truth will always bring a cross into our lives.

Re: The End of Denominations - posted by RainMan, on: 2010/9/6 11:09

Quote:
----- And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13 NASB)

A couple of questions i would ask about this passage of text before i would attempt an exegesis.

1. If denominations did not exist at the time this scripture was written. What did the church at the time understand the scripture to mean?
2. there are many false ways or denominations but is the scripture really talking about consolidation of all these false perverted ways?
3. is unity and unification the same thing in the context of what is spoken of?
4. is there any eschatological difficulties in correctly interpreting this verse.

if i was to read into the scripture eisegetically then.....

when the church faces end of days apocalyptic persecution before the return of christ. there wont be a baptist church or a pentecostal church there will just be a persecuted church. The pastors wont fly around in private jets they will probably be living in caves on a can of baked beans for on week.

Re: - posted by AbideinHim (), on: 2010/9/6 11:18

I appreciate the many good points that many of you have made concerning Denominations. The scripture that Nathan quoted is the heart of the Lord concerning His people, and that is that we would all be made one.

The Body of Christ consists of many different members in one body. It is unity in diversity. The basis of our unity is being in Christ. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6).

The Church is the Body of Christ and the Body of Christ cannot be divided therefore God is against anything that divides His Body. Denominations do not bring unity to the Body but division.

Many denominations had their beginnings in revivals and moves of God. Fresh revelation and restoration of vital truths were restored to the Church. However any time that man gets his hands on that which God is doing, the end result will be that of mixture, having some of God in it and a lot of man. Instead of Jesus building His Church, what we have is man building his own little kingdoms for his own glory.

Christ is the Head of His Body and men are the heads of the various denominations. The true Church can be in the denominations but the denominations can never be the Church. It is only what God is building on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ that will endure the great shaking in these last days. All that man has built will be consumed as wood, hay, and stubble in the fire that will try all things.

The true Church is a living breathing organism which is filled by the Spirit of God, while the organized Church is an organization that is built by man. The true Church is being led by the Spirit of God through waiting on Him and seeking Him in fervent prayer. The organized Church moves through planning by committees that are set up by man.

Mike

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/9/6 11:26

Good questions AD. I've had to wrestle with them myself. No doubt, I've signed on the dotted lines for the "advantages" that come with such membership. But I don't look at that any differently than Paul being a Jew unto Jews and as a Gentile to Gentiles. To me, it's no different than Timothy undergoing circumcision for the purpose of His ministry unto the Jews. It's just a "practical" step I've undertaken, so as to increase the sphere of my ministry.

Besides, Paul talked of being the "approved among you," in regard to the divisions that existed in Corinth. Those of us who do not carry about us a party spirit can still run in these circles, though we are not of them. Indeed, our ability to fellowship in the midst of these factions, and across party lines reveals just where we stand in regard to the Lord and each other.

Indeed, we must be careful not to be factitious even concerning being non-denominational. Paul said some in Corinth said they were "of Christ" in contrast to those who said they were of Paul or Cephas.

And for the record, I've preached in pulpits of churches that I had no denominational affiliations with.

Re: , on: 2010/9/7 7:43

Without having read the entire thread, I will comment that denominations are not necessarily a "bad" thing. If we are out of town and searching for a church in which to gather with the saints on a Sunday morning it is certainly very beneficial to have that sign out front that tells me a little bit about that church. If I see "Reformed Presbyterian" I know what to expect. If I see "Southern Baptist" I know what to expect. If I see "First Church of Crystal Powers and Resurrection Hippie-dom" I may not know what to expect but I know well enough to leave alone!

But should there be divisions between denominations that hold to and preach the same basic essential doctrines? Absolutely not.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/9/7 8:31

Such is a fair point. I went to a church out of town this weekend while visiting my parents, one associated with the denomination of the church I attend. However, I think a basic description on the sign such as "Evangelical" would've been enough to tell me that church is probably grounded in something resembling Biblical Christianity. As it is, I've personally found over the years that churches within the same denomination can be VERY different from one another, even if there is a somewhat common denominational "culture" associated with them. So, such tags aren't always helpful, though, I get the point you are making.

Re: , on: 2010/9/7 8:44

Hey, that's an excellent point to. Example: how many different flavors of Baptists are there? Ultra liberal to extreme fundamentalism.

Krispy

Re: The End of Denominations, on: 2010/9/7 12:26

I read this thread and appreciated the comments. We are in the Harvest, which is foundational separation. One union will be drawn to God, one union to be burnt. The Bible says that THE BODY has made herself ready. One Body, One Lord, One Baptism, One faith...

Paul spoke quite directly about denominations...NAMES...primarily of sects drawn around men, and their doctrinal flavor I presume... One says that I am of Paul, One says that I am of Apollos, One of Cephas, One of Paul...and his response to them all was "Was Paul crucified for you?"...meaning that to act in such away, was to remove yourself from Lordship...that pure devotion to Jesus alone.

Generally, I have found most denominations to be filled with spiritual babies, spoon fed, and adhering to forms of ecclesiastical order...the "service" order is first passed out, with exact times designated for announcements, "worship" preaching, the "offering and tithe", and "ministry" time...if there is any..when in reality the Holy Spirit has been quenched every minute.

nute of the gathering, and probably for years and years.

And everything seems to be centered around "the Pastor"...an unscriptural reference if their ever was one.

"Diotrephes is the only one mentioned in the New Testament singulary, and 3John makes it clear his status in the apostles eyes.....EVIL. Always plural and equal...that is the Bible truth anyway.

Mostly, denominations are Pulpit driven and deny the least of the Brethren in ministry, sisters, and the weak. Paul, the apostle made it very clear that without including the weaker, we deprive ourselves GRACE...and we are no body at all, but pretenders.

There has and is, a floodgate opened in the Denominational world, of souls fleeing the deadness, and hypocrisy of it all. The one man show, the pews, the handshake and "love" you only seem to get for that 90 minutes...?? Perhaps 40%-50% have vanished, in the last 20 years, and many such churches have shut down.

This of course has brought the "user friendly" gospel to us..along with the liberal excesses of the "Emergent" church, just to fill up the churches, and numbers have replaced holiness, and a prosperous organization that assures the well being and happiness of the people; the epitome of true ministry.

Worship is now entertaining, as is the witty and often funny preaching...and the Starbucks quality coffee bar in the lobby keeps you alert. There are lessor and grater variations, but in reality, it is dead religion, that will kill you if you do not find life....which will only come learning to walk with Jesus.

"The Lord seeks WORSHIPERS, and those who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth." If you do not flee the death in a false worship system, you may perish. It is your responsibility, not another.

The answer?...Home churches? Maybe, but you can take folks out of religion, but it is a bit harder to remove religion from the hearts of men. Often, we find ambition in many home churches..someone qualified to teach and control.. or a man or woman with a success driven personality that sees anything less than leading God's people as a lessor goal.

God is shutting down Names except the Great Name, and we will become One Body in these last days, for it is written; "THE BRIDE HAS MADE HERSELF READY!"...and I assure you, this is unto the least of the Brethren, whether we like it or not. Beware how you discern and honor the body of Christ, and we are our brother's keepers. Ministry minds and denomination usually do not see this.

Re: - posted by Joyful_Heart, on: 2010/9/7 13:46

Amen Goldminer!!! Well said! Brovo! Our God Reigns! Let Him Reign also in our hearts! And to have unity among the brethren. Then to see Him face to face. Glory to God!

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/9/7 14:20

Tom, you made some excellent points...

But then there are doctrinal differences, so how will you deal with them?

Some believe in OSAS, others believe you can lose your salvation; there are differences in how some interpret the endtimes: pre-trib, post-trib, mid-trib, pre-millenium, amillennism, etc; some believe holiness will characterize God's child, others will call that legalism; some believe in keeping the Lord's day holy, other say not; some believe in observing the Sabbath on Saturday and others say Sunday, others say not at all; some believe in head coverings and others say its observance smacks of legalism; in baptisms some believe in immersion, others pouring, others that it is not essential; some say baptism is essential for salvation and others say not; some believe in Biblical non-resistance and others say it is your duty to defend your country by serving in the military; some believe in speaking in unknown tongues, others say tongues means languages always; some believe the NT superceeds the OT in life and practice, others will say the scriptures is a flat book; some say divorce and remarriage is wrong and others say it is not; some say one should accept practicing homosexuals and others say no; some like contemporary music, other prefer traditional....and on and on and on.

How can a church function with all these differences?

ginnyrose

EDIT: Spellings

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/9/7 17:35

Quote:

-----How can a church function with all these differences?

I have been watching this thread with some interest, but have not had the time to put in my two cents. God really spoke to me about this issue from the first three chapters of 1 Corinthians several years ago and totally changed my paradigm. Little did I realize that within a few years I would leave a denominational church to join with a group of people from all sorts of different backgrounds and experiences in the foundations of something that God is doing.

In 1 Cor. Paul admonishes the church there to be of one mind and one judgment and to all speak the same thing. He admonishes spiritual and doctrinal agreement. He then rebukes them and calls them immature and babes in Christ. He says that this is because of the divisions they were making among themselves. Some said I am of Paul, some of Apollos, some of Peter, and some of Christ. Three denominations and the "nondenominational" denomination if you will. The point is they were putting their eyes on their favorite teacher and not on Christ.

The particular denomination I was raised in started as a "movement" whose "founder" spoke strongly about it not being or ever becoming a denomination or a sect. It was, in his eyes, simply a revival of pentecost, the faith of the apostles, and holiness that would spread among all church denominations. But for those who were born again and raised up into differing levels of maturity under this man's teaching, it became "their church". It became a denomination despite this man's warnings that it should never be so. To tell you how strong this is, I knew a young man full of the fire of God who tried to teach what the Holy Spirit laid on his heart in one of these churches. The people complained and said, "We don't want to hear that stuff. We want to hear more (name of denomination here) doctrine."

We get into trouble when we begin to revere the teachings of a particular man about the Word of God more than we revere the Word of God. We get into trouble when we begin to espouse the doctrines and creeds of a denomination above those of the Word of God. Hold the doctrines taught by man loosely and seek the truth of the Word of God prayerfully and diligently. When you see the doctrine of a man aligning itself with the Word, receive strength and ministry from it. When you see the doctrine of a man, or even your own interpretation beginning to run crossways with the Word, abandon your own or that of another man and cling to the Word.

I believe it is possible for us to speak the same thing. In our fellowship there are issues that come up from time to time where the teachings that different ones have received in the past come at odds. We must all then go to the Word of God, study diligently and prayerfully, and be willing to be changed by the Word. Above all we must remain in an attitude of love and deference to one another and stand side by side facing Christ and running hard after Him.

HomeSkoolDad & Hippies - posted by Lysa (), on: 2010/9/7 17:47

Not having read the entire thread either, I would simply like to take issue with the vast overstatement that HomeSkoolDad made in his post.

My issue is with his word "hippie" including it with the "First Church of Crystal Powers and Resurrection Hippie-dom." (halleluyah!)

I just wanted to make sure everyone knows... not every hippie owns a crystal; sure, they may own a pot plant or two but definitely not every hippie owns a crystal; just wanted to make that clear.

God bless us all,
Lisa

PS: HomeSkoolDad, I know you are new and did not want you to take this seriously; it's my pathetic attempt at humor!

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/9/7 18:08

Quote:

How can a church function with all these differences?

One thing I have discovered: Jesus still chooses to fellowship and live within people who hold these opposing points of view, and regularly ministers through them. If Jesus can fellowship and minister through people whom I disagree with theologically, then why can't I learn to do the same as my Master?

Re: The End of Denominations, on: 2010/9/21 9:16

Man makes denominations in everything. We call it that in the Church context but regardless of the group or hobby we splinter into factions.

The pattern is a Man gets a message, develops a method and it becomes a movement. In the true sense, Jesus gives the man the message in the first place.

There is nothing wrong with this pattern. It's the way it's always been. The problem is many in the movement are never open to hear the next message and get locked into what Jesus was doing rather than what He is doing. Or worse feel that the message or denomination of the hour or a 1000 years ago can ever take priority over our fellowship in Christ.

This takes place on the corporate structure side of the Church which is for many their full understanding of Church. They defer the responsibility to the man, message or movement and follow the person in front of them. But we are called to be an expression of the Church individually and then come together for the assembling of the corporate Christ. When this is done right it's all Jesus and no man. I was fortunate to be at such a meeting on the weekend and the subjects of doctrine, denomination and affiliations never came up. Even though the leadership was clearly members of a group that has high opinions of all those things. They simply knew how to put everything aside in the corporate setting that included people outside their box. And let Jesus be Jesus with his children. It was fantastic.

marc mc

Re: The End of Denominations, on: 2010/9/25 15:54

Quote:
-----I believe the practical ramifications of this passage teaches that the Lord will eventually bring an end to the denominational and party spirit that exists within Christianity right now.

The only ramifications of the passage you quote is that there WERE NO denominations or parties within the Church. ALL of these ministry gifts preached and taught THE SAME THING.

Denominations are by definition heretical. Only Jesus can found a Church.

Peace.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/9/25 16:59

Factions and those with part spirits were an early part of the church. Paul dealt with many such groups at Corinth. And their doctrines were diverse. Indeed, most of the New Testament epistles were written to combat the diversity of doctrine these churches were seeing.

Re: , on: 2010/9/25 17:03

You forget to mention one key point. These factions were by definition OUTSIDE the Church. All heretics and heresiarchs were OUTSIDE the Church and turned over to Satan in hopes that they would repent and enter into the ONE TRUE CHURCH. The Church does not have denominations with different acceptable sets of beliefs. The Church by definition is a perfect union. To state otherwise is grave and heretical.

Thanks for engaging me so promptly on this.

Peace.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/9/25 18:32

Quote:

These factions were by definition OUTSIDE the Church

Actually, no, in the opening chapters of 1 Corinthians, Paul talks about all of them being part of the Church. Indeed, in spite of their party spirit and hero worship, they still gathered together. Indeed, Paul even talked about those who were "approved" fellowshiping within these factions.

Quote:

The Church by definition is a perfect union.

We are united via our union in Christ. But other Christians don't always get along with other Christians. Some do not preserve the bond of peace and unity of the Spirit in love. Instead, some get carnal, and war against one another.

Quote:

To state otherwise is grave and heretical.

If you think the early New Testament church was this nice harmonious group that agreed in everything always, you simply have not been reading the New Testament.

1 Corinthians was written to address factions that had formed, people living in gross immorality, people breaking with apostolic practice and belief. 2nd Corinthians was written to the church to congratulate them for getting over these errors, but with another set of problems altogether. Ephesians and Colossians were written to these churches in response to error. Galatians was written in response to error. The same with 1 & 2 Thessalonians, etc., etc., etc.

Re: , on: 2010/9/26 1:05

Jimmy, as a young believer I was disciplined by an old Saint in Japan and one thing that he always told me and the other Navy and Marine guys (This was a Serviceman's Center in Yokohama), was that wherever you go, if you don't find any fellowship, make it! What he meant was, preach the Gospel! My second ship in the Navy was a Supply Ship with no Christians on board. At least no professing Christians that I could find (450 men). I had just come off of an aircraft carrier where I was lost for the 1st year, but then got saved and my remaining year onboard, I walked daily with Jesus Christ. My new ship also did not have a Chaplain on board. So, I figured if I could not find any Christians, I would just start witnessing. Actually, continue witnessing, because that is pretty much all I ever did on the aircraft carrier. So, I spent half my paycheck every two weeks buying tracts, passing them out and spending long hours talking with guys. Especially the ones that were confined to the ship for infractions. By the time I left the ship 18 months later, the Lord graciously added 8 Believers to his kingdom and I had fellowship. It really was a sweet time. We grew quite close as you can imagine, because there was plenty of persecution.

I remember asking the Lord "what do I teach them", (after they became Christians) and He simply said, teach them what I have taught you so far. I was about 1-2 years old in the Lord by then. Well, those were pretty good words, because I had been taught enough by the Lord to hunger after Him and His Word, run after Him with all my heart, run away from sin, etc, etc.

My point is, you never have to think that your only recourse in life is to join a denomination. Invite a neighbor over for a barbecue or something. Mix with people, talk to people at work, or if you can't (because you were not employed to witness), then talk to them after work. The main thing is be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to guide you in your relationships. God is relationship oriented as you can see in Jesus daily life and the Holy Spirit will guide you in different ways to talk to people. He will actually setup appointments for you. Fellowship is important, but remember, if you are always just going to a church building, usually only Believers are there. And what's wrong with inviting Believers that you know over for a prayer meeting and give a short word or read a chapter together with them and then discuss it. In my 33 years as a Christian, I have mostly been outside the religious system and been in many house churches in my travels. There are Believers in denominations, but that is not the only place where you will find them. Main thing is love people. Jesus loved people. When you do this, opportunities will open up to talk to them about Jesus. There are many hurting people out there who have no hope. If you have Jesus you will be fine. I was a young Believer, had no fellowship, but a lot of guys to talk to (lots of potential fellowship) and the Lord kept me daily.

Sometimes, I think we dwell too much on ourselves and not others. Not saying you do, because I don't know you, but just trying to encourage you. Remember, you can do all things through Christ (not the Church) who strengthens you.

The Church may not always be there. Think of Prem Pradhan or Richard Wurmbrand when they were in prison. What did they do? They share Christ's love and preached the Gospel and miracles happened in men's lives.

Re: The End of Denominations - posted by fromtheold (), on: 2010/9/26 5:38

14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.