

be YES. Shocked by that answer? I would think so! But IF we accept the definition of "denomination," as seen above, then that answer would be unavoidable! (Please keep reading - don't give up on me yet!)

We have long affirmed (and I believe accurately) that the church of which we are members is NOT a denomination. The problem here is not with the definition of "denomination;" rather, it is the erroneous concept and definition of the "Church of Christ" which prevails in the religious world at large and even among members of the church. It is right at this juncture that, in my opinion, we have confused everyone, including ourselves, and created an atmosphere which has produced division.

We have been bold in asserting that we are members of the church we read about in Matthew 16:18 ("...upon this rock I will build my church...").

And this is indeed the case if we have responded to the gospel as illustrated in Acts 2:37-47. But the church to which the Lord has added us is NOT "an association of congregations." In other words, it is NOT a denomination. It is, rather, an association or fellowship of the saved.

This is what we have sometimes referred to as the "universal church." If this is not the case, then we have been added to a denomination and we'd better quit affirming that we are "non-denominational!" Instead of talking about the "One True Church," we'd be more accurate to talk about the "One True Denomination!" Remember that for something to be a "denomination," it has to be a unit or part of other parts. The church I'm trying to direct people to is not a part of other parts. It is the ONE body of Christ (Ephesians 4:4).

What is the "unit" of the church in Matthew 16:18 or the body of Christ in Ephesians 1:22-23? It is the individual Christian - not a congregation (see 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27). The "one true church" I am interested in getting people to be added to is an association of Christians - not congregations! I do not belong to an association of congregations. Another way of saying that is, I do not belong to a religious denomination. Nor does the congregation of which I am a member belong to an association of congregations. I can accurately and truthfully affirm that we are "non-denominational."

What difference does any of this make? Simply this: If we are going to be credible to a skeptical world, we need to be accurate and honest in the claims we are making.

"The Intelligence of Germs"

Some years ago I listened to a radio broadcast of a talk on "The Intelligence of Germs." He related the findings of some efficiency experts in their studies of absentee problems among employees of large companies.

One way of interpreting the results of their findings was that, apparently, sickness-producing germs were very intelligent! They found, for example, that businesses with very generous sick-pay benefits had a much higher percentage of absenteeism than companies with lesser benefits.

No doubt the germs knew not to pick on those poor workers whose company would not provide for them! Those experts also found that there was more sickness among employees on the days just prior to the weekend, and much less sickness on Mondays than at any other time. Conclusion - Those intelligent and beneficent germs knew it was more convenient for workers to be stricken toward weekends! They were also smart enough to leave their victims in time for working hours the following Monday!

I strongly suspect that these brilliant bacteria have been to work on some of us. They seem to judiciously avoid afflicting us until late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. Those benevolent bugs know that Sunday is the only day some of us can afford to be laid up. But these venerable viruses invariably fly the coop at the sound of Monday morning's alarm clock!

Of course, someone might be so crude as to suggest that we are just manufacturing excuses for not attending services. But we meet the mere breath of such suspicions with denials and counter-charges of "judging" and "meddling." Therefore, based on the evidence, we must be forced to the conclusion that congregations have been invaded by a strain of highly intelligent germs! Brethren, beware!!!

Youth Ministry

By now, everyone will have settled back into school after a fun-filled summer. We pray that your school year will go well and that it will be filled with positive, enjoyable experiences.

We had a great September here with our Youth Program. The first week we began with a Back to School Barbeque. The rest of the month we enjoyed such activities as jewelry making, crafts, football and other indoor games. We also had two guests this month. Sis. Alaire Godfrey visited and gave a very informative presentation on X-rays. She is a member of the KEMH staff and brought along some interesting examples for us. We also had a visit from Sis. Sharon Woods, who showed us how to make scrapbooks. Everyone designed a page for our Youth Ministry Scrapbook.

If you haven't already seen them, make sure you have a look. The books are on display in our lobby.

This month's Star Students were Sabriyya Harvey and Robert Edwards. Congratulations! Keep up the good work so that you may be an example to others.

May God be with you and your children until our next letter.
May God bless you and keep.

We have posted a new sermon.
So please check it out and tell others about our website.
www.churchofchristbermuda.bm

We would also appreciate any comments you have for our Website or our newsletter. E-Mail us at, info@churchofchristbermuda.bm

Have a Bermuadful Day