

What's Wrong With Religious Denominations?

Denominations	The Lord's Church	Denominations	The Lord's Church
1. Many bodies.	1. One body (Matthew 16:18 16:18; I Corinthians 12:20).	8. Change teaching.	8. Bible stays the same (Matthew 24:35).
2. Founded by men.	2. Founded by Christ (Matthew 16:18).	9. Many faiths.	9. One faith (Ephesians 4:5).
3. Human heads.	3. Christ the head (Ephesians 1:22-23).	10. Many baptisms.	10. One Baptism (Ephesians 4:5).
4. Human creeds.	4. Bible alone (II Timothy 3:16,17).	11. Men join denominational churches.	11. God adds to His church (Acts 2:47).
5. Human names.	5. Christians - Disciples (Acts 11:26).	12. Approve of division.	12. Jesus prayed for unity (John 17:20,21).
6. Many gospels.	6. One gospel (Galatians 1:8,9).	13. Follow human traditions.	13. Rejects human traditions. (Col. 2:8).
7. Membership not essential for salvation.	7. Membership essential for salvation. (Ephesians 5:23).	14. Practice unscriptural worship.	14. Worships in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24).

Why Be A Part of A Denomination?

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

4700 Andrews Avenue Amarillo, Texas 79106
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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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Bearing Grudges

As I grow older I have noticed a tendency in character that I wish I did not see: the tendency to very easily hold a grudge. When I was younger, if someone did something against me, or did something that in some way hurt my feelings, I found it relatively easy to let the matter “roll off my back” and forget about it. Yet, now as an older man, with a few more hurt feelings “under my belt” and a few more situations that I wish I could forget, what once might have easily been viewed as “water under the bridge,” now tle too long “under the bridge” (so to speak). Understanding why something may happen doesn’t justify or excuse its occurrence. Bearing a grudge is wrong because it reflects a lack of forgiveness. Jesus taught in the both the model prayer and His comments immediately after the prayer, how important forgiveness is. He declared: **“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”** (Matthew 6:14,15, NKJV). To some (Cont. on pg. 2)

Bearing Grudges (Cont. from pg. 1). degree, this forgiveness is to occur whether the person who has “trespassed” against us ever repents of the wrong they have done. Jesus also taught: **“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”** (Mark 11:25). Clearly, if we want to be forgiven by God we must be forgiving of others.

Bearing a grudge is a very unattractive quality. It is ugly to see in one’s self or in others. It makes the one who feels it bitter, resentful and distant. Forgiveness, on the other hand, and the sweet disposition that accompanies it are qualities that are appealing, admirable and approachable.

In June of 2004 the nation mourned the passing of its 40th president, Ronald Reagan. Among the many touching testimonials that were made about this man, one struck me more than any other. Shortly after he was shot in 1981, Reagan records in his diary that he found himself struggling with how he could go to God in prayer for himself while he harboured hatred in his heart for the disturbed man who had tried to kill him. To address this Reagan first prayed to God for the soul of the man who shot him, then he prayed for himself. Imagine, after having someone explode a weapon in your direction that lodged a bullet inches away from your heart taking the time to first pray for them.

As impressive as this example is, it is nothing compared to the example of our Lord. He, who was God in the flesh, as life was slipping away from His fleshly body, considered those who had torn His body to shreds, slammed a thorny crown on His head and pierced His hands and feet with nails, appeals to heaven - **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”** (Luke 23:34). If Jesus could ask for the forgiveness of those who carried out His crucifixion, what wrong could anyone ever do to us that would justify bearing a grudge against them?

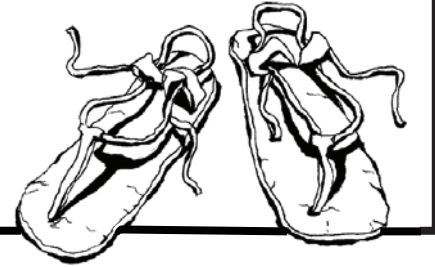
Bearing a grudge requires that we maintain a disposition and an attitude towards the other person that can hinder our very worship of God. Before the model prayer, in the same sermon Jesus taught, that harbouring anger towards our brother can place us in danger of judgement, and that holding them in contempt can place us in danger of hell fire (Matthew 5:22). Jesus taught that before we bring our **“gift to the altar”** we must first do what we can to make things right in our relationships with others (Matthew 5:23-24). If we hold on to a grudge it may be that the very spiritual sacrifices we offer in worship to God become unacceptable. Let’s strive to prevent this from happening to our relationship with God.

By Kyle Pope

“As He Walked” – I John 2:6

Studies in the Character of Christ

By Kyle Pope



A Quiet Disposition

As we look back through the ages to consider the character of Jesus, one of the most striking aspects of His behavior is the quiet disposition which He maintained. Even though the gospels record for us His words and teachings, it is amazing how much is said about His silence.

The prophecy of Isaiah which foretold Jesus’ death, said of Him - **“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth”** (Isaiah 53:7, NKJV). While the gospels record for us the few words Jesus did offer in His own defense Mark tells us - **“...the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing”** (Mark 15:3). How tempting it must have been in the fact of these rebellious and blasphemous souls to declare to the whole universe the grandeur of His nature and the scope of His incomprehensible power! Yet, it was not yet the time for such a declaration. The Apostle Peter years later would speak of Christ’s character in proclaiming that Jesus - **“...when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He**

did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously” (1 Peter 2:23).

With the master having such a disposition it is little wonder that we who would serve Him are to do the same. James tells us through the Holy Spirit - **“...let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”** (James 1:19). On three occasions in Paul’s epistles he refers to the Christian disposition as one that is “quiet.” To the church in Thessalonica he urges them to - **“...aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business...”** - (1 Thessalonians 4:11) and to **“work in quietness”** (II Thessalonians 3:12). He told the young evangelist Timothy that we should pray - **“for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence”** (1 Timothy 2:2). Certainly there are times when we must speak. As Christians, we (like Jesus) must teach the truth, we must rebuke sin and encourage faithfulness. Even so, when it is not necessary for us to speak, let us strive to imitate the character of our Master in putting on a disposition of quiet submission to Him in our daily life. □