

## What's Wrong With Religious Denominations?

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

**Why Be A Part of A Denomination?**

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# Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

16.2

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

January 12,  
2014

## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM  
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Steve Dixon  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

### Evangelists:

Kyle Pope  
Andrew Dow



## What Is Apostasy?

By Kyle Pope

**T**he word *apostasy* means an, “1) Abandonment or renunciation of one’s religious faith or moral allegiance...2) By extension, the abandonment of principles or party generally” (*Oxford Dictionary of the English Language*, Vol. 1, p. 390). It is derived from the Greek word *apostasia* (ἀποστασία) meaning, “a defection or falling away” (*Strong’s Greek-English Dictionary of the New Testament* No. 646). The Greek word is used twice in the New Testament. The first, in an accusation made against Paul that he was teaching the Jews to “**forsake** (*apostasia*)” the Law of Moses (Acts 21:21), and the second, in a passage offering comfort to the brethren in Thessalonica that Judgment Day had not already passed—first “**the falling away** (*apostasia*)” must come (2 Thess. 2:3). The New Testament makes it very clear that very soon after its deliverance into the world “**the faith**

**which was once for all delivered to the saints**” (Jude 3), would suffer from attempts to **“pervert the gospel of Christ”** (Gal. 1:7). In our lives personally and in matters of doctrine and practice Christians must always be on guard against apostasy (or turning away) from sound faith.



Olsen Park church of Christ

If you spoke to the average person in many churches throughout the religious world they would probably tell you that it doesn't much matter what a church does as long as the *attitude* of its members is right. It is true that the Bible teaches a great deal about the attitude with which we should approach God in worship. However, it also says a great deal about what a church practices. Paul told the church in Thessalonica, **“if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed”** (2 Thess. 3:14). He wasn't just talking about good attitudes—they were to walk **“according to the traditions received from us”** (2 Thess. 3:6). In Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, although he devoted a great deal of time to moral issues, such as chastity (6:12-20), marital faithfulness (7:1-40), respect for the conscience of others (8:1-3), self-denial (9:1-27), and love (13:1-8), he also firmly taught them about proper conduct in the assembly (14:26-40), proper observation of the Lord's Supper (11:17-34), personal responsibility within the church (12:1-31), and proper use of the church collection (16:1-4). In this very epistle Paul asserted, **“the things that I write to you are the commandments of the Lord”** (14:37). Certainly our attitude must be right, but in practice and doc-

trine it is clear that churches must do *only* those things for which we can establish authority in Scripture. To do otherwise is to turn to apostasy.

Most of the religious world considers it *legalistic* to hold to only those things that the Bible teaches and to reject (so-called) “improvements” or “additions.” In their view people who do this **“strain out a gnat and swallow a camel”** (Matt. 23:24)—the description Jesus used of the Pharisee, whom he charged had neglected the **“weightier matters of the law”** such as **“justice, mercy, and faith”** in their meticulous tithing of even their spices (see Matt. 23:23a). In this text, however, Jesus doesn't teach that God is unconcerned with small things. On the contrary, concerning tithing of spices Jesus said **“these you ought to have done without leaving the others** [i.e. the “weightier matters of the law”] **undone”** (Matt. 23:23b). In other words, those who follow Christ should make certain that their attitudes *and* their actions are right in the sight of God. How can anyone say that it doesn't matter to God whether churches follow the Bible or not? Jesus said, **“not everyone who**



**says to me Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven”** (Matt. 7:21). Paul spoke of those **“having a form of godliness but denying its power”** (2 Tim. 3:5). It is possible to be religious—it is possible to call Jesus “Lord,” without having a true relationship with God in Christ—without enjoying the **“power of God unto salvation”** (Rom. 1:16). This is apostasy.

