

SHOULD THE CHURCH OF CHRIST FELLOWSHIP THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH?

by Robin W. Haley

INTRODUCTION

That 2006 was an important year for many who compromise and fail to hold fast the faithful word (Titus 1:9, all quotations shall be from the ASV, 1901) is an understatement. Some have held to some “hierarchical” mentality to what is termed “restoration churches” or “restoration heritage” and have always had fellowship with the Christian Church denomination. Others have severed relationships, but maintain an “umbilical chord” status of “brethren” with this man-made religion. Still others who are “ignorant and unstedfast” (2 Peter 3:16) are uncertain and have concluded that the Lord’s church has an obligation to seek ways by which they may create or resume fellowship. Of these three views, the first is denominational, the second uninformed, and the third compromising. All are wrong and therefore sinful. Should the church of Christ have fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? To use the words of the apostle Paul, “what saith the Scripture?” (Rom. 4:3).

DEFINITIONS

When one uses the word “should” many times they mean “ought” and vice versa. There is a difference. If we are running late on Sunday morning, and we are hungry for our bowl of Wheaties but there is no milk, we *should* run to the grocery to buy some, but that would make us late for worship. What shall we do? Though we *should* get milk, we *ought* to go to Bible Class and worship. The first action would be a good idea, the latter is our obligation. Just so, when we consider the

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

question of our study, we must decide: is it a good idea or is it an obligation? This treatise denies both: fellowship with the Christian Church is not an option, nor an obligation. It is a sinful idea. We shall examine why the idea is a bad one, and explore the folly of thinking such would be an obligation. Let us consider a few more definitions.

The church of Christ is not the result of the thinking of man, but the eternal purpose of God (Eph. 3:11). Contrariwise, the Christian Church denomination is the express result of the thinking of men to create a religion to their own liking. By their own admission, some of the “branches” of the Christian Church denominations trace their beginnings to 1804 or 1906. The Lord’s church is that group of people “called out” from sin and the world to be God’s own possession (Tit. 2:14). As His possession, the church is the people elect from every nation to “show forth His excellencies” (1 Peter 2:9) and to do the good works which “God afore prepared that they should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). The members of the Christian Church denomination are still in sin, do not have God (Eph. 2:12) and certainly as a religion of men cannot be a part of God’s eternal purpose. They cannot do His work for they are not authorized to do so (Col. 3:17). Should the church of Christ have fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? Is it a good idea? God forbid, for again as Paul wrote:

Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what portion hath a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? for we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing;

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

And I will receive you, And will be to you a Father, And ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1).

When we sum up the definitions of the words used by Paul to express the sin of an unequal yoke (fellowship with error), we find that he is forbidding the “conforming as practitioners with dividers of the spoil who cast their vote in agreeing to sin.” This is the position we hold when we have fellowship with error, and the Christian Church denomination is no exception. Should the church of Christ have fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? No, this would constitute an unequal yoke of bondage leading to death.

Let us examine fellowship. Fellowship is the “joint participation” that exists between two parties. Since denominations are the invention of men not God, and since their work is not authorized by God, and since they cannot rightly do God’s work, such fellowship would be considered sinful. When Paul wrote for us to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them” (Eph. 5:11), he did not say have some or limited or occasional fellowship. What is it about the word “no” that is difficult to understand? Should the church of Christ have fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? Is it a good idea for us to participate with unauthorized people in unauthorized works? According to the Holy Spirit it would be a practice that would condemn us. Hear the word of the Lord: “And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Col. 3:17). Again the Lord said “Be not ye therefore partakers with them” (Eph. 5:7).

The apostle John wrote “that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you also, that ye also may have

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

fellowship with us: yea, and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). “That which we have seen and heard” surely is a reference to what the apostles were lead into, what Luke called “the apostles doctrine” (Acts 2:42). Fellowship therefore is based upon adhering to what the apostles have “declared” unto us as revealed in the Book Divine! Those who do not so adhere cannot have that fellowship. Again he wrote “but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). Here we learn that walking in the light is surely continuing in what we learned from verse three. The Christian Church denomination does not walk in the light because they do not hold to what the apostles declared through the Bible, they can have no part of that fellowship which John teaches, and do not have the cleansing from their sins. Should the church of Christ have fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? No, for they do not continue stedfastly in the apostles doctrine.

DISCUSSION

We now want to examine the validity of all that has come before in this manuscript. We hope that all readers will take the time to investigate the contexts from which our passages have been drawn. Be noble-minded enough to “receive the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures [daily], whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Jude tells us that we are “to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). That faith teaches us to offer unto God that which is “good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom. 12:1-2). Those in the Christian Church denomination can only offer something that is polluted and vain (Mat. 15:7-9), because it is not offered in spirit and in truth (John 4:24; Phi. 3:3). It ought to be clear that

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

it is a very poor idea indeed for the church of Christ to have fellowship with the Christian Church. But what obligations have we toward this suggestion? It is not difficult to conclude that if something is a bad idea, there can be no obligation attached to it. Why would God condemn the idea, and then bind the obligation? Would this not be contradictory and confusing? Is God a God of confusion? You know the answer!

A QUESTION OF TIMING:

There have been very many strange sounds made in discussing this question. One of those goes like this: "Well, the Galatians were wrong in doctrine, and Paul even said they were severed from Christ and had fallen from grace. Paul still considered them Christians, and did not demand that they be "rebaptized." (We have heard similar "logic" being applied to Corinth and change agents trying to persuade us to practice unity in diversity. The obvious problem with this kind of thinking is that these epistles were not written to promote unity in spite of doctrinal difference, but rather to get the readers to REPENT!) In the case of the Galatians, it is suggested that since they started out right, went wrong, and then to become right again, they only needed to repent and there was no need for them to be rebaptized. This is true. Some erroneously allege that this means the Christian Church people can simply repent of error and be welcomed into fellowship. However, this pre-supposes that they started out right to begin with. This is not the case. They never were right with God, and need to obey the Gospel of Christ. Whereas the Galatians started out right (Gal. 3:3) and went bad (Gal. 5:4), the Christian Church denomination started out bad and stayed that way (or got worse, although how can one be any more lost than being lost?). Should the church of Christ have

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? No, it is a sin to have fellowship with the lost.

TO WHAT DID THEY BECOME A PART?

Let us say that a man wants to join a civic club like the Elks. After having gone through all the steps to become such, he later decides that he wanted rather to be a part of the Lions Club. So, he approaches the local chapter and demands to be recognized. The Lions Club secretary WILL NOT say, "Well, since you joined a club, all you need to do to be accepted here is to observe a few different by-laws and pay your dues here instead of at the Elks." No, he will not be recognized, but will have to go through all of the Lion's routine to become one of them. How can one cooperate with a certain form of doctrine, a certain name, a certain routine of worship, a certain organizational structure, a certain mission and still conclude that they belong to something entirely different? Christian Church folk are not members of the church of Christ, they are members of the Christian Church denomination.

"BUT THEY TEACH SOME TRUTH!"

Now comes one who says, "But does not the Christian Church teach some things that are Biblical?" The real question is: how much error can one teach, believe and practice and still be acceptable to God? The answer: none! Whoa! Now some are going to think we have really narrowed down the "circle of fellowship" because after all, we all believe some error... all we have are brethren in error. Let us be kind just here and say BALONEY! John said "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and *because no lie is of the truth*" (1 John 2:21)! How much Decon are you willing to ingest? After all, it is MOSTLY edible. It is recorded in Matthew seven that on the

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

Judgment Day, some will lay claim to the Lord by saying “we did many mighty works.” Do you suppose Jesus is going to say “Well done, thou sons of the devil. Inherit the basement of thy Father since you said a few things right.” Surely we know that he will say “I NEVER knew you.” That means NOT EVER. Christian Church people do not know the Lord, nor does He know them (Gal. 4:9) for they do not His word, even though they may say some of the same things He says. Should the church of Christ have fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? No, they do not know the Lord.

Think about what Jesus taught in Matthew 23. In verse 15 He says “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he is become so, ye make him twofold more a son of hell than yourselves.” Why is that? They surely taught SOME truth. Jesus will likely say to those who believe that one can be added to the Christian Church denomination and then merely say “I’m sorry” and be welcomed into God’s fellowship, something like this: “Woe to you Christian Church preachers and you who agree with them, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land and all over the internet to make one believe that just any doctrine that uses the words “remission of sins” will save. You make him YOUR disciple, and when he is become so, ye condemn him to hell except he come out of that into which you have put him!”

Does a Baptist preacher or Catholic priest ever say anything true? We suppose that they do. Does this make them acceptable? Do they merely say they are sorry for past error and are then welcomed into God’s fellowship? (Yes, sadly, they are in some places.) Or, must they “obey from the heart that form of doctrine” (Rom. 6:17)? Just so, the Christian Church members.

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

In August 2006, D. Gene West wrote an editorial entitled “Union in Truth” for the West Virginia School of Preaching bulletin called *Publishing Peace*. On page six he writes:

A second group who disturb the peace and unity of the brotherhood are those who ride hobbies. They are forever preaching on such matters as rebaptism, which word never occurs in the Bible, or some other equally radical subject. These people will not even admit that if a person is baptized *as were the people on Pentecost* (my emphasis, rwh) they are saved! They say there is more to it than that. If so, why did Peter not preach it?

Brother West errs, not knowing the Scripture! Peter preached EXACTLY what needed to be preached on that occasion. Consider: Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4); he was preaching things the Spirit brought to his mind that Jesus had taught (John 14:26). Did Jesus ever teach the apostles anything about His church (Mat. 16:13-19)? Of course He did! It is ignorant for anyone to say that “remission of sins” was the only doctrinal point Peter preached on that day, and that is all we need to know. Please remember also, that “with many other words he testified, and exhorted them, saying, Save yourselves from this crooked generation” (Acts 2:40). Brother West, what were those “other words”? We suggest that Peter preached about the kingdom, for he asked Jesus about the kingdom just seven days earlier (Acts 1:6). What he did not understand about the kingdom then, he surely did on Pentecost having received the Spirit. Now let us see... to what were those saved folk added that day? “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added *to the church* daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47, KJV).

Although the doctrinal truths are always applicable to all living today, we suggest that NO ONE is baptized “as were the people on Pentecost” as brother West alleges for the

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

simple reason that circumstances are different. We admit, we are not sure what brother West meant by that phrase, but let us compare his statement with what a Baptist preacher might teach. What does the Baptist pastor teach regarding salvation? He usually will point to such passages as John 3:16 and Romans 10:9,10. What has been the typical answer given by the Lord's people to such tom-foolery? We ask "Where is the repentance, confession, and baptism in John 3:16? Or where is the repentance and baptism in Romans 10:9,10?" Likewise, we would ask brother West, where is the belief and confession in Acts 2:38? Yes, Gene, there IS more to it than that. More and more was being revealed as the church grew and grew. Today, we have all we need as recorded in ALL the New Testament, those on Pentecost received what they needed. Men living today need to know more than what those Jews needed on that day. Men today need to know all that has been given on the subject of salvation in order to rightly answer the question of Acts 16:30, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" What is foolish for the Baptist pastor is foolish for our brother in Christ (and he is a teacher of God's elect??)! If Acts 2:38 is all one needed, the Bible would only be one verse long! We wonder if brother West would be willing to debate this question. We stand ready, willing, and able.

Another consideration of Acts 2:38 and the Christian Church denomination is this: baptism must be administered upon the basis of and preceded by repentance. Of what do Christian Church preachers teach people to repent? Do they teach them to repent of erroneous worship, an unauthorized name, fatally false practices and community fellowship, unauthorized roles of service for women, and an organization that is foreign to the Bible? No, rather becoming a part of such things is precisely what they are doing. How then can one claim that if these people are baptized "as were those on

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

Pentecost” they have truly repented? They cannot! Truly the Christian Church “conversion” is Biblical, but the passage that describes it condemns it:

I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel; which is not another [gospel] only there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach unto you any gospel other than that which we preached unto you, let him be anathema. As we have said before, so say I now again, if any man preacheth unto you any gospel other than that which ye received, let him be anathema (Gal. 1:6-9).

Christian Church preachers may use the phrase “remission of sins” (as do the Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Primitive Baptists, some Catholics and no doubt other sects), but such a phrase belongs to a different gospel, a perversion of the true Gospel. There is no true repentance under such conditions. They have put the cart before the horse. One cannot acceptably “be baptized and then repent.” Should the church of Christ have fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? No, for they have followed a perverted Gospel which will condemn us!

WHAT IS BEING TAUGHT?

As the first century church grew, and more revelation was being given to the inspired preachers, more information was necessary to fit more occasions as the Gospel spread. Anyone today being baptized “for the remission of sins” but lacking any teaching and understanding of the kingdom of Christ, is not being taught correctly nor thoroughly. As has rightly been said, one cannot be taught wrong and baptized right! Philip the evangelist taught what was needed to those in Samaria as recorded in Acts 8:12: ”But when they believed Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” From this occasion, there are four things that were being taught that men must know today. Those things are: the good tidings (the Gospel: the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ), the kingdom of God (the church of Christ), the name of Jesus Christ (to be Christians only and glorify God in this name [1 Peter 4:16]), and the plan of salvation (baptism unto remission of sins). Many denominations teach parts of these, but not a one teaches the second point correctly: that to which they are adding their proselytes IS NOT the kingdom, the church of Christ! Now, just where and when did men learn that we can know, understand, and agree with only PART of the doctrine of Christ and be acceptable with God? The only way we may have fellowship with God is to follow completely the doctrine of Christ. This is how we know: “Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9).

Gospel preachers make it their goal to observe the wise man’s advise: “The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written uprightly, [even] words of truth” (Ecc. 12:10). As more information became known to the apostles and other inspired preachers, more was being taught to the hearers who needed to be saved. Consider a few examples: “Go ye, and stand and speak in the temple to the people *all* the words of this Life” (Acts 5:20). What words are those? “For I shrank not from declaring unto you *the whole counsel* of God” (Acts 20:27). What are these kinds of words called? Paul called them “*sound words, [even] the words of our Lord Jesus Christ*, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness” (1 Tim. 6:3). What if one does not teach all this doctrine? “If any one cometh unto you, and bringeth not this teaching, receive him not into [your] house, and give him no greeting: for he that giveth him greeting partaketh in his evil

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

works” (2 John 10,11). Is it not acceptable to teach part or even most of the truth? Hear Jesus’ brother’s answer: “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one [point], he is become guilty of all” (James 2:10). Should the church of Christ have fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? No, for they are not teaching the truth about the kingdom of God, the one and only church of Christ. They do not abide in the doctrine of Christ.

WHO IS AUTHORIZED TO TEACH GOD’S WORD?

Some have foolishly concluded that even if a false teacher used words of truth, the message they teach is the truth. Jesus and Paul and Asaph did not believe such! Even the devil used words of truth, but when he did so, it was a lie! Why did Jesus not want demons telling others who He was? While He was working in the regions around Galilee, the record says “And he healed many that were sick with divers diseases, and cast out many demons; and he suffered not the demons to speak, because they knew him” (Mark 1:34). When Paul and Barnabas were working in Philippi, Luke records:

And it came to pass, as we were going to the place of prayer, that a certain maid having a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. The same following after Paul and us cried out, saying, These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim unto you the way of salvation. And this she did for many days. But Paul, being sore troubled, turned and said to the spirit, I charge thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And it came out that very hour (Acts 16:16-18).

Remember the seven sons of Sceva, Acts 19? The Bible tells us that they used some of the same words Paul used to heal people, but with a very different effect. Why, they even invoked the name of “Jesus whom Paul preacheth” (verse 13). That evil spirit knew what was what, and who had authority to

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

use that holy name. When interlopers came along, “the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and mastered both of them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded” (Acts 19:16). Not just anyone may use Jesus’ name and speak words of truth and be acceptable. How can fellowship exist between God’s people and those who would pervert His words?

A passage that really hits the nail on the head is this:

But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, And that thou hast taken my covenant in thy mouth, Seeing thou hatest instruction, And castest my words behind thee? When thou sawest a thief, thou consentedst with him, And hast been partaker with adulterers. Thou givest thy mouth to evil, And thy tongue frameth deceit (Psa. 50:16-19).

What we learn is this: the unconverted denominational (Christian Church) preacher may not take the Lord’s words into his mouth and teach them for he hates instruction, and throws the words he does not like away. He is like any thief who “steals my words every one from his neighbor” (Jer. 23:30), and does not teach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). He partakes with adulterers because he is the friend of the world and thus the enemy of God (James 4:4). His tongue frames deceit because he tells men “you can sing with the piano and you can hob-knob with the ministerial alliance here in town... blah, blah, blah.” This is the kind of man people will trust with their souls, then conclude that he actually baptized them into something of which he knows nothing! More foolishness! Should the church of Christ have fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? No, for the Christian Church is not authorized to teach God’s word.

ARE THEY IN OR ARE THEY OUT?

Those who contend that members of the Christian Church denomination may merely “repent” and be added to the

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

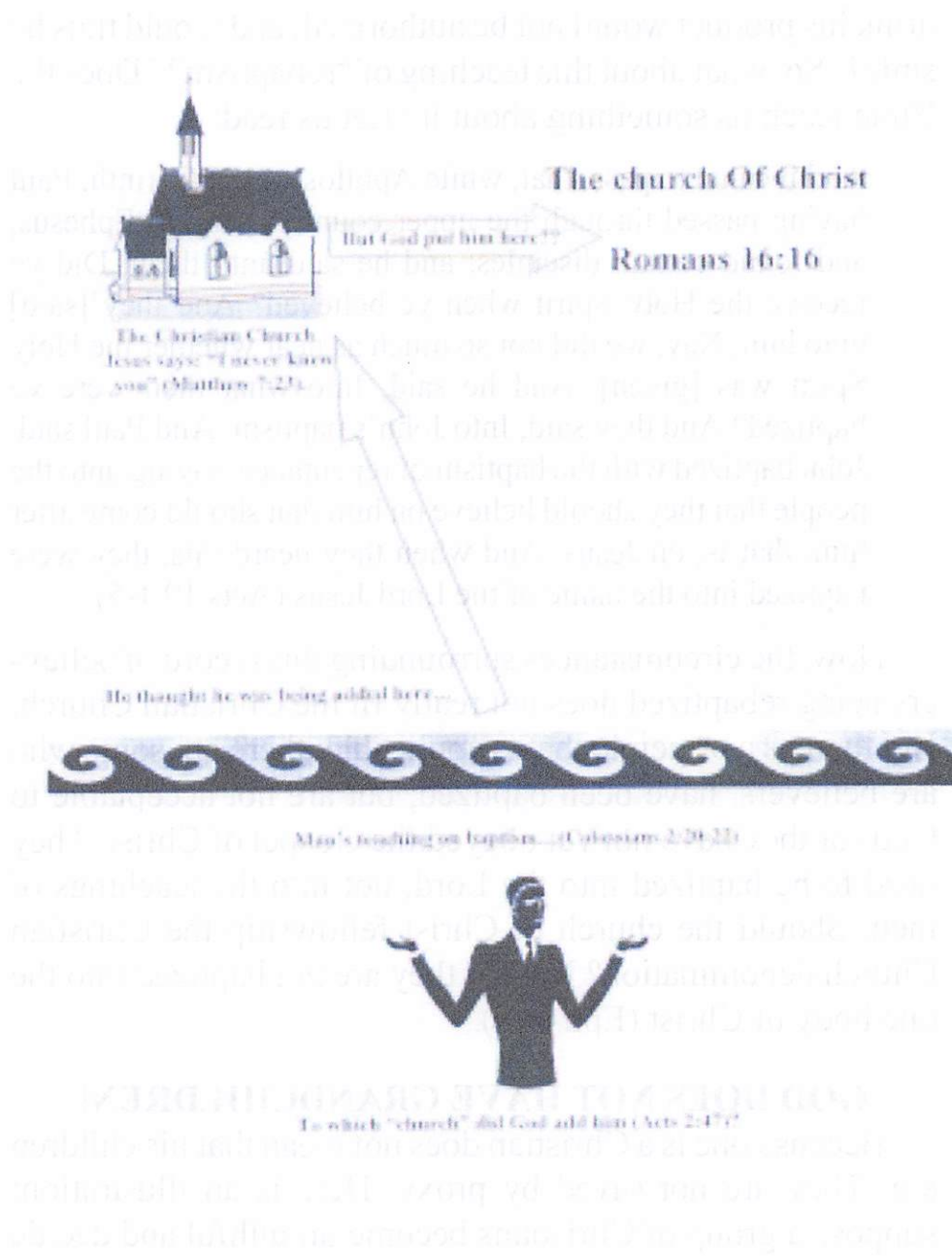
fellowship of the saved have a dilemma. They say “As long as one says ‘for the remission of sins’ then God does the adding.” Here is the problem with this thinking: that person was never IN the Christian Church since the magic formula was spoken and God automatically added him to the church of Christ. So, if they were not IN the Christian Church, then how can they come OUT of it. One cannot come OUT of something they were never IN. However, if one is truly IN the Christian Church, then in order to come out and be a part of the Lord’s church, they must be added by the Lord to the church by being obedient to the faith (Acts 6:7). They must obey the Gospel (2 Thes. 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17). They must hear the word of the truth, the Gospel of their salvation (Eph. 1.13), believe it (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6), repent of their sins and false religious practices (Luke 13:3), confess the lovely name of Jesus (Mat. 10:32,33), and be baptized into Christ, unto the remission of their sins (Gal. 3:27; Acts 22:16). This is when God will add them to the church (Acts 2:47), and thus to the kingdom (Col. 1:13).

Members of the Christian Church are either members or they are not. If they are members of the Christian Church, then they are not members of the Lord’s church. They must obey the Gospel. If they are members of the Lord’s church HOW DID THEY BECOME PART OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH? God does not add people to denominations. Should the church of Christ have fellowship with the Christian Church denomination? No, for the Christian Church is not “part” of the church, but is a separate body altogether. [See chart on the next page]

INTO WHAT WERE THEY BAPTIZED

Earlier, we quoted brother D. Gene West as saying “... rebaptism, which word never occurs in the Bible...” He is making light of those who teach that not all baptized believers

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?



are added to the Lord's church. Some need to be baptized INTO CHRIST, INTO THE ONE BODY (1 Cor. 12:13). Does he not know that a word that represents a teaching does not need to occur in the Bible for the subject that word represents to be taught. For example, the words "Jack Daniels" do not occur in the Bible, but we surely know that to

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

drink his product would not be authorized, and would thus be sinful. So, what about this teaching of “rebaptism?” Does the Bible teach us something about it? Let us read:

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found certain disciples: and he said unto them, Did ye receive the Holy Spirit when ye believed? And they [said] unto him, Nay, we did not so much as hear whether the Holy Spirit was [given]. And he said, Into what then were ye baptized? And they said, Into John’s baptism. And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe on him that should come after him, that is, on Jesus. And when they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 19:1-5).

Now, the circumstances surrounding this record of believers being rebaptized does not really fit the Christian Church. But there is a principle that is applicable: there are some who are believers, have been baptized, but are not acceptable to God for they have not yet obeyed the Gospel of Christ. They need to be baptized into the Lord, not into the teachings of men. Should the church of Christ fellowship the Christian Church denomination? No, for they are not baptized into the one body of Christ (Eph. 4:4).

GOD DOES NOT HAVE GRANDCHILDREN!

Because one is a Christian does not mean that his children are. They are not saved by proxy. Here is an illustration: suppose a group of Christians become unfaithful and decide to create a new “church.” In order for them to be restored to their first love (Rev. 2:4), they must repent and pray God’s and their brethren’s forgiveness (Acts 8:22; James 5:16). They are safe again, they have come to their senses and have come back home from the prodigal way of life (Luke 15:11-17).

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

But let us further suppose that these same people decided not to return to the fold, but were happy to have a church after their own heart. They changed the name, the doctrines, the worship, the work, the organization, and the lines of fellowship. They are brethren in error, which none can successfully deny. But in the process of time it came to pass (Gen. 4:3) that these sinning brethren had children. As these children grew and came to a time when they too wanted to belong to mother and daddy's church, they were told certain things to believe and to say. They were told to be baptized and then they would be considered members of this church to which their parents belong. They were told "you are saved because you were baptized for the remission of your sins." They carry a different name than the one that glorifies God (Acts 11:26), their "church" is called after them as followers, and not after the One they claim to follow, they practice a doctrine that cannot be found in the Bible, some of their cousins belong to similar "churches" where aunt Helen is permitted to teach the adult class, their work and fellowship is according to the pleasure and calendar of the town's ministerial alliance, they love to hear sister Suzie play that piano in worship, and they are happy to cast their vote to elect uncle Henry to be an elder or deacon. To what church have these been added? Are they "brethren in error?" Are they brethren at all, or are they suddenly apostates? From what have they apostatized? From what have they fallen? One can only FALL from something they once were PART of. What is true of their parents (brethren in error) IS NOT TRUE OF THEM! God does not have grandchildren! They cannot be "restored" to what they were never a part of. They belong to a new following, a new "church," a new denomination, something foreign to the Bible. They belong to the Christian Church because they believed and obeyed a different Gospel

Church Of Christ Fellowship The Christian Church?

(Gal. 1.6-9). They need to be CONVERTED, not simply “restored.”

How can the church of Christ have fellowship with such and still be pleasing to God? Should the church of Christ fellowship the Christian Church denomination? No, for they “have neither part nor lot in this matter: for [their] heart is not right before God” (Acts 8.21). It is neither a good idea, an option, nor certainly an obligation to have nor try to promote fellowship with the Christian Church denomination. Such an idea is without authority, militates against all that the New Testament teaches regarding the church and her fellowship, and would cause us to be “carried away with the error of the wicked, [and] fall from our own stedfastness” (2 Peter 3:17). It seems that those brethren who cannot see this, likely cannot see through a ladder. Should the church of Christ fellowship the christian church? No, she ought not.