



Cape Coral Church of Christ

1010 S.W. 20th Avenue

Cape Coral, Florida 33991

(239) 283-4880



<http://www.thelordsway.com/capecoralfl>

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday: Bible Study: 6:00 P.M.

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The Undenominational Church of Christ

The church of the New Testament is not denominational. In the beginning, there was only one church - no denominations. In the first century, denominations did not exist, but the church of Christ did exist. The undenominational church of Christ is produced when the gospel of Christ is obeyed (Romans 6:17,18). The New Testament church and denominational churches are far different from one another in origin, purpose, mission, and destiny.

Denominations were planned by men, the church of Christ was planned by God. God planned the church in such a way as to have unity (Ephesians 3:10, 11). Unity is possible when "all speak the same thing" (1 Corinthians 1:10). Denominations promote division while the church of Christ promotes unity!

Denominations exist without blood, the church of Christ was purchased with Christ's blood: "... shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Christ and His church cannot be separated because the church was purchased by His blood. His church is as valuable as His blood. Those who reject the church of Christ do not recognize the connection between the church of Christ and the blood of Christ. "Husbands, love your wives,

just as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for her" (Ephesians 5:25).

Denominations do not teach God's plan of salvation; the church of Christ teaches the gospel plan of salvation. Denominations teach people to go to an altar and pray for salvation, pray the sinners prayer, or to just accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. They do not tell sinners to hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus (John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 17:30), confess Jesus as the Son of God (Romans 10:9, 10), and be baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3-5). Denominations never tell people what Peter told the people on Pentecost. "Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). The church of Christ encourages gospel obedience (Acts 2:36-41).

God has blessed us with the great privilege of being a part of the blood-bought, God-planned, Heaven-promised church. Jesus gave the world His church before and without denominationalism. Let's go back to the Bible, back to New Testament Christianity, back to the Bible church. You can just be a Christian! It is a great blessing to be a member of the undenominational church of Christ.

It Is Not a Ritual, It Is a Path to Holiness

Because it happens every week, it is easy for the partaking of the Lord's Supper to become somewhat of a religious ritual and we fail to understand the part it plays in our spiritual growth. The abuse of this feast in Corinth brought dire consequences. "For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep" (1 Cor. 11:30). If one does not remember Jesus and discern His body as he partakes of the bread and cup, he eats and drinks damnation to his soul.

In the New Testament, we remember Him, but in the Old Testament they remembered their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. From the time the Sabbath was given until the close of the Old Testament, there was not a weekly assembly, but a time when the Jews, their families, their Gentile neighbors, and even their animals stopped all activity and spent that day thinking about God delivering them from bondage. Tragically, by the time of the New Testament, it had become a day which involved the precise distance one could walk on that day, whether it was sinful to walk through a

field of grain and eat the wheat in that field as they walked. It had become a day where one could water his donkey and help his ox get out of a ditch, but the Messiah was forbidden to heal on that day. It was so ritualistic that keeping the rites of that day became a symbol of righteousness!

The failure to keep that day holy by remembering their deliverance from Egypt was a primary reason for the Babylonian captivity that lasted seven decades. God described it this way: "Her priests have violated My law, and have profaned My holy things ... and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them" (Ezek. 22:26). The sabbath was holy and so is the Lord's supper.

So, what happens to us as we remember, not the sabbath, but the Lord in His feast? Peter described those who were failing to add the "Christian Graces" to their faith when he says, "For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten he was cleansed from his old sins" (2 Peter 1:9). The Lord's Supper is a weekly reminder of how He purged us from our sins and delivered us from the bondage of sin. It is a time we examine ourselves as we visit the cross. The Lord wanted Israel to remember deliverance from the bondage of Egypt every week and gave them a memorial day to ensure their spiritual growth. The Lord wants us to remember our deliverance from the bondage of sin every week and has given us a memorial feast to ensure our spiritual growth.

As you eat the bread and drink of the cup, never let it become a ritual. But let it be that time when you commune with Him around His table and visit the cross of our salvation.

Don't Guess!

When it comes to a matter as important as the salvation of your soul, you don't want to take a chance, or have to guess ... and you don't have to! Paul tells us in Romans 8:16 that "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

The Spirit testifies in the Word as to what we must believe and do in order to become a Christian (John 6:63; 2 Peter 1:21). The Spirit teaches that one must believe that Jesus is the Son of God (Romans 10:10) and that one must confess Christ. He also teaches (Acts 2:38) that believers must repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sin.

If my spirit testifies that I do believe, that I have repented of sins, confessed Christ and been baptized into Him for the remission of sins - then the two agree, and bear witness with each other that I am a child of God.

Aren't you glad we don't have to guess whether or not we are saved? Do your spirit and God's Spirit agree that you have done, and that you are doing what He requires? If not, begin now! We'll be glad to help you in any way that is Scriptural and right.

Will I Do It?

During the sermon, an old Yiddish proverb was quoted: "A half truth is a whole lie." The point is that all our lives are in God's hand, and when we lie - regardless of how we may "sugarcoat," "shade," or "tilt" the truth - we are still lying.

Recently a card addressed to the minister was turned in with the attendance cards. It read, "I hope you are happy! After your sermon on 'a half truth is a whole lie,' I put my true weight on my new driver's license this week." The writer of the card will forever be nameless.

That brings up the point of sermons and what earthly (or heavenly?) purpose they serve. In general, one difference between a class and a sermon is that a class is meant to inform and increase our store of knowledge, while a sermon is meant to change our behavior. Many classes and sermons will over-lap that distinction, but as a rule of thumb it's not far off.

Next time you leave a sermon, first ask yourself, "What am I supposed to do?" Follow that with the second (and less frequently asked) question, "And will do it?"

Have you overcome the world?

Consider the words a man wrote to a friend in the third century: "This is a cheerful world as I see it from my garden under the shadow of my vines. But if I were to ascend some high mountain and look out over the wide lands, you know very well what I should see: brigands on the highways, pirates on the seas, armies fighting, cities burning; in the amphitheaters men murdered to please applauding crowds; selfishness, cruelty, misery and despair under all roofs. It is a bad world Donatus, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are the Christians - and I am one of them."