

The Life of Christ

Sermon on the Mount

Conclusion - Matthew 7:24-28

Matthew 7:24-27 The Two Foundations

Both are "Hearers", the difference is their actions

James 1:22-25, 2:14-26

Matthew 7:28-29 The Conclusion – The authority of Jesus Christ

Practiced

Recognized



Rabbit Trail: Denominational Differences – As I understand them...

“Handbook on Denominations” & “Charts of Church History”

Most Protestant Denominations:

Salvation by faith, Inerrancy of Scripture (but both are subject to variances)

Some Distinctions of Beliefs:

Can I lose my salvation? (Church of Christ, Assembly of God, Methodist)

Is church membership required (baptism as a sacrament) for salvation?

Is the church charismatic? (Pentecostal, Assembly of God, some Lutheran, some others)

Does the church practice infant baptism? (Most non-Baptist; Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican, Lutheran, Church of Christ)

Does the church practice adoration of icons/ pray to saints (Orthodox, Lutheran)

Is the church conservative (believe Bible) or Liberal/Progressive (really Don't, to varying degrees)

Does the church allow homosexuality? (Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Church of Christ)

Does the church allow women to pastor? (Pentecostal, Assembly of God, Methodist, Anglican, Presbyterian)

Is the church ecumenical (unification of denominations)? (most non-Baptists)

Is the church in line with their denomination, or which branch are they? Often seen in conservative/liberal splits or denominational association distinctions

Some Distinctions of Service Styles:

Praise-based, usually charismatic or liberal, usually ecumenical

Liturgical, very formal and ceremonial – Orthodox church, like Catholic or Jewish

Traditional – Main services split time between worship and preaching

Some Distinctions of Church Governance

Congregational governance

Rule by Elders

Denominational hierarchy

Lastly – Non-denominational/Interdenominational churches

Bible Churches vs. Community Fellowships vs. Mixed Nuts



What's wrong with Ecumenicalism?

It's a movement started and propagated by the Roman Catholic Church to unite Christians – let's all rejoin the Roman Catholic Church??!!

Galatians 1:8 – Those teaching other gospels are to be condemned

Titus 3:9-10 – Reject a heretic after a first and second warning

Romans 16:17 – Turn away from them

2 John 1:10-11 – Do not receive them

2 Peter 2:1-3+, 3:17 – Be on our guard

The message of Ecumenicalism is for Christians to unite AS Christians, not as separated denominations, but SCRIPTURE commands Christians to separate from heretics, and the reason is this:

1. Once our differences don't matter, our doctrines don't matter.
2. Once our doctrines don't matter, the Bible doesn't matter.
3. Once the Bible doesn't matter, Christians lose the wisdom and direction which God provided for us and fall away from God in their personal walk.

"Know doctrine, know separation, no doctrine, no separation."

So then, is worshiping God with believers of other faiths a violation of Scripture?

1. I believe instances of shared worship are not wrong, especially in circumstances where regular church services are not available.
2. The philosophy of tolerance of any doctrine, particularly the gospel, in order to worship God is contrary to Scripture (obedience better than worship – ask Saul)
3. Accepting heretical denominations, condoning their divergence is contrary to Scripture.
4. The Sixth Promise of a Promise Keeper – "A Promise Keeper is committed to **reaching beyond ANY** racial and **denominational barriers** to demonstrate the power of Biblical unity."
5. So "fellowship" with some other denominations (same gospel) is fine, but those which must be classed as heretical (other gospel), must be rejected.