

How are Christian Churches Different from the First Century Churches?

All Scriptures from The Old King James Version

The first observable difference is there were no organizational groups over the local church.

The oversight was from God and the Disciples at first. Later it was the local Elders who had the oversight over each church. These Elders only had oversight over that local Church. The “New Testament Bible” was in the process of beginning delivered at this early time. It was delivered by the Holy Spirit through the twelve Apostles and those who had the gift of prophecies and the gift of knowledge. The miracles that were done proved that their messages were from God. Today there are great organizations over large groups of Churches. They are run like a business. *This should not be so. Each Church should be independent as it was in the first century.* I understand their thinking that this would keep the doctrine the same. This does not work. It only supports a few telling what they believe and forcing their beliefs to be taught to others even when very plain scriptures show contradictions in their teaching. *Where can you find anything like this done in the first Century Church in the Bible?* Why can’t we do it as they did? We should stick to what examples and teachings that are found in the Bible. I have heard it said “The Bible doesn’t say not to”. We should not add to the way it was done or take away from the way it was done in the Bible. We should adhere strictly to the teaching in the Bible. Respect God’s silence. Why? Man’s opinions are not inspired and cause problems. God delivered his ways to prevent us from straying into sin and problems. Observe the following Scriptures:

1Co 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. **6** And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; *that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.*

Jer 10:23 *O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.* **24** *O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.*

Pro 16:25 *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

This is the result of doing it man’s way.

Mat 7:21 *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* **22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **23** *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

God speaks of his ways.

Isa 55:8 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.* **9** *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

God speaks of his commands.

Deu 4:2 *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it,* that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Rev 22:19 And *if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall*

take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Pro 30:5 Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 6 *Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.*

Every teaching and command from the Bible were to be strictly adhered to in the early church. They often strayed but were told to correct the problem. The unity was through the teachings delivered from God. Most churches today don't stick strictly to the word of God. *All things need to be proven in scripture.* We need to do as the Bereans.

1Th 5:21 *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.* **22** *Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

Act 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas *by night unto Berea*: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews. **11** *These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.* **12** Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

Note: In Revelation chapters 2 & 3 we see some of the corrections the early Churches had to make.

The Churches were independent:

Rom 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

2Co 8:23 Whether *any do enquire* of Titus, *he is* my partner and fellow helper concerning you: or our brethren *be enquired of*, *they are* the messengers of the churches, *and* the glory of Christ.

Gal 1:22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:

1Th 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:

The scriptures below show they were independent but not without need for correction.

If they were not independent all letters would have been sent to the organization and then to each church.

Rev 2:1 *Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write;*

Rev 2:8 *And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write;*

Rev 2:18 *And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write;*

Rev 3:1 *And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write;*

Rev 3:22 *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

See the problems in the Jewish organization. In the 400 years of silence the leaders of the Jewish organization made up their own doctrines contrary to the old law. See how Christ had to correct them.

Col 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, **19** And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. **20**

Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, **21** *(Touch not; taste not; handle not;* **22** *Which all are to perish with the using;)* *after the*

commandments and doctrines of men?

Mat 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade *them* not **beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**

Unity does not come from accepting everyone and their teachings. Only the teachings and commands in the Bible can make unity. Today we find over 30,000 Denominations all teaching different doctrines. **This is not unity but division.** If you study all scripture and study their teachings, most people will get confused because of contradictions to their teaching to simple scripture. Just accept what the scripture says and avoid these contradictions. If you accept what the simple scriptures say it will come together to understand it all. The complete understanding only comes through God and prayer and developing a love of truth (Scripture, The Bible).

2Th 2:10 And **with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. **16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **17** **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

God's word is truth. I am not saying there are not complicated scriptures. Scripture says there are. The understanding of complicated scriptures is only obtained by diligent study of God's word. Understanding takes time and diligence. The simple scriptures usually explain the complicated. The complicated is the meat and the simple is the milk of the word.

2Pe 3:15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to **the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16** As also in all *his* epistles, **speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.**

The first century Churches were to be one in teachings and doctrine. This was to show that it was from God. The word One shows there is only one way.

Joh 17:17 **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.** **18** As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. **20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; **21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. **22** **And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.**

Can you not see all this division in teaching makes people believe the Bible is not from God. Don't stand up for man's teaching! Stand up for Bible teaching! Remember despite all the good we do in this world if God didn't teach it in the Bible then we will be condemned. We will be judged by the word of God (The Bible). The law Of Liberty is the Word of God in the Bible. **Mat 7:19** Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **20** Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. **21** **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **23** And then will I profess unto

them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Jas 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. **13** For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Man should not teach any doctrine without considering all scripture for that teaching. If there is only one scripture contradicting their teaching then the teaching is wrong. We must consider God's teaching superior to man's teaching. If it sounds good to us we must understand we are fallible God isn't.

2Ti 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. **12** But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. **13** The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. **14** I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. **15** As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16** And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and ***there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*** **17** Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. **18** No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Joh 11:51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; **52** And not for that nation only, ***but that also he should gather together in one the children of God*** that were scattered abroad. (The persecutions of the way scattered them)

Act 4:32 And ***the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul***: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Rom 12:16 ***Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things***, but condescend to men of low estate. ***Be not wise in your own conceits.***

The teaching of many different things not found in scripture has been shown to be wrong. To keep the unity of the Spirit we should be teaching the same thing. Remember Christ wanted us to all be one as he was one with the Father.

Eph 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** *There is **one body***, and ***one Spirit***, even as ye are called in ***one hope of your calling***; **5** ***One Lord, one faith, one baptism***, **6** ***One God and Father of all***, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. **7** But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Joh 14:11 Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. **12** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. **13** And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** ***If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*** **15** ***If ye love me, keep my commandments.***

Joh 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. **5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. **6** I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. **7** Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. **8** ***For I***

have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. 9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. 10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. 11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. **Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.**

Php 1:25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; 26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again. 27 **Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

Php 2:1 If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 **Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**

Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also **ye are called in one body;** and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 **And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**

1Pe 3:8 Finally, **be ye all of one mind,** having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

1Jn 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, **the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.** 8 **And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.**

1Co 1:10 *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

Some of the thing's men teach that are not found in scripture: Pray the sinner's prayer and accept God into your heart and you will be saved. This sounds good but there is no teaching or example of salvation this way. How can they teach this without Biblical authority? We do need to have our heart right with God. Obedience to God is the only thing to lead us to salvation. Jesus is the son in the following scripture.

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, **he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;**

2Th 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when **the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,** 8 **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:** 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

See how important obedience is to every command given by God under his new covenant. Is there any command we can ignore? No! This shows all commands are necessary for our salvation. How can anyone say this or that command is not for salvation. You better wake up, God will judge you for this. Stop using the commandments of men wherever they come from. Salvation is based not on emotion but obedience through knowledge of God's word. (The Love Of Truth) Emotion comes to us after complete obedience. **Rom 10:1-4 2Th 2:10**

Rom 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. **2** For I bear them record that **they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.** **3** **For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.** **4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** **11** And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: **12** That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

I know historically there was a great persecution of Christians. They had to live in hiding. This only got a little better when Romans decided to embrace Christianity. This was some 200 to 300 or more years later. All Churches were independent till this time. They made it a state religion. Unfortionally this made Christianity under a large governing body. just as was under Mosaic law which man perverted by adding the Bible teaching. We can't go back to the old law to justify any practice as a priesthood deigning marriage or certain foods. **In a general sense this is a form of returning to Mosaic law. The New Testament states we can not justify ourselves by the Old Law. If we do we have fallen from Grace.** The bible also never speaks of a Pope. Peter was not a Pope.

The bible does not say anything about the sinners prayer for salvation. Nor prayer beads or praying tom the virgin Marry. Their are far more things added than I can cover in short order. In other words we should stick to the scriptures and not add to it or take away from it as the Jews did.

Remember how the command to care for your father was effectively taken away by their Corban rule. See how people today still adding more by their miss teaching.

Mar 7:10 For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: **11** But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, **It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free.** **12** And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; **13** **Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.**

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. **2** Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. **3** **For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.** **4** **Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.**

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, **that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2** **Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3** **Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.** **4** For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: **5** For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Our high priest has been setup by God and not man. The Priesthood now is all faithful Christians. Our high priest is Christ not a man on earth. No office set up by man is required. To setup a separate priesthood is against what the scriptures teach.

Heb 5:8 *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;* **9** *And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;* **10** *Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.*

Faithful Christians are the priesthood.

1Pe 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: **3** If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious. **4** To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious, **5** **Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

I hope you can see God controls the priesthood and not man. No man can create an office that God has already created. So the only way man can try to justify themselves is to go to the Old Law to seek justification. When they do this they have fallen from Grace. The first Denomination started some 200 to 300 years later did these things.

Gal 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, **whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.**

This is why I believe this kind of organization (Denominationalism) is not pleasing to God. I can only give this as caution because God did not speak of this in the Bible directly. Why? Denominations did not exist at this time. It is obvious that error later lead to the first Denomination. Because of this, I see how organizations can pervert teachings from God. This plainly seen today by the fact there are over thirty thousand Denominations each teaching different doctrines. Who is right? They can't all be right. How can God be pleased with this? Denominations cause divisions. Why can't people see this? *Many people do see the division and don't believe in God because of this.* Do you not see the problem? Understand if people accepted the Bible as it is written and don't try to explain away simple passages because they contradict what they have always been taught. Believe the Bible not man's teaching despite the fact it has been taught for a long time. There will always be a Church holding to the simple teachings in the Bible because of this passage. Any time you make an organization over several Churches you have created a denomination. **Mat 16:17-19**

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.** **18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** **19** And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The keys to the Kingdom were shown in Acts chapter 2 when Peter delivered the first sermon while under the baptism of the Holy spirit which started the Church.

Scripture does not contradict scripture, because of this scripture. **2Ti 3:15-17**

2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:** **17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Scripture teaches the principal of one church teaching the same thing not thirty thousand

Churches and teachings. Eph 4:1-6 Rom 15:6 2Co 13:11 Php 1:27 Php 2:2 1Co 1:10 Php 3:14-16

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, **2** With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **3** **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** **4** There is **one body**, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in **one hope** of your calling; **5** **One Lord, one faith, one baptism,** **6** **One God and Father of all,** who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Rom 15:6 **That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God,** even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Co 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, **be of one mind**, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Php 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in **one spirit**, with **one mind** striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Php 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, **that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord,** of **one mind.**

1Co 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that ye all speak the same thing,** and **that there be no divisions among you;** but *that* ye be **perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**

Php 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. **15** **Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded:** and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. **16** Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, **let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.**

Scripture teaches we should be as one in the teachings. Without the love of truth (The word Of God) we can not do this without diligently studying his word.

Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.**

Even if you don't believe this, please! study the scriptures with the mind to accept what scriptures teach without preconceived ideas. Your heart must be able to change when what you believed is proven wrong and accept what the scripture plainly says. Be as the Bereans prove what is so by scripture.

Act 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews. **11** **These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

1Th 5:21 **Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.** **22** **Abstain from all appearance of evil.**

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