

A Study of Denominations

1. Introduction

Alexis Khomiakov, the Russian theologian, told a parable about three disciples. One faithfully repeated the master's teaching without change, the second added to it, and the third rejected parts of it. The master commented that the last two needed the first in order to have the whole truth; and the first better understood the truth when he had to defend it to the others! St. Paul said something similar to this...

1 Corinthians 11.18-19

1. One of the first mistakes people tend to make when it comes to the problem of denominations is to hold to the idea that we can _____ of doctrinal divisions.
2. What do we mean by “denomination”?

Webster's: a religious organization whose congregations are united in their adherence to its beliefs and practices

3. Were there “denominations” in the time of the Old Testament?

Genesis 4

Exodus 34

Judges 21.25

Jeremiah 8.8-9

4. Were there “denominations” in the time of the New Testament?

Pharisees & Sadducees

Jews & Devout Proselytes (Acts 13.42-43)

Galatians 2.9 & 12

1 John 2.19

5. How did the New Testament Church handle doctrinal differences?

Acts 15

6. How much Christian doctrine must we all agree to for fellowship?



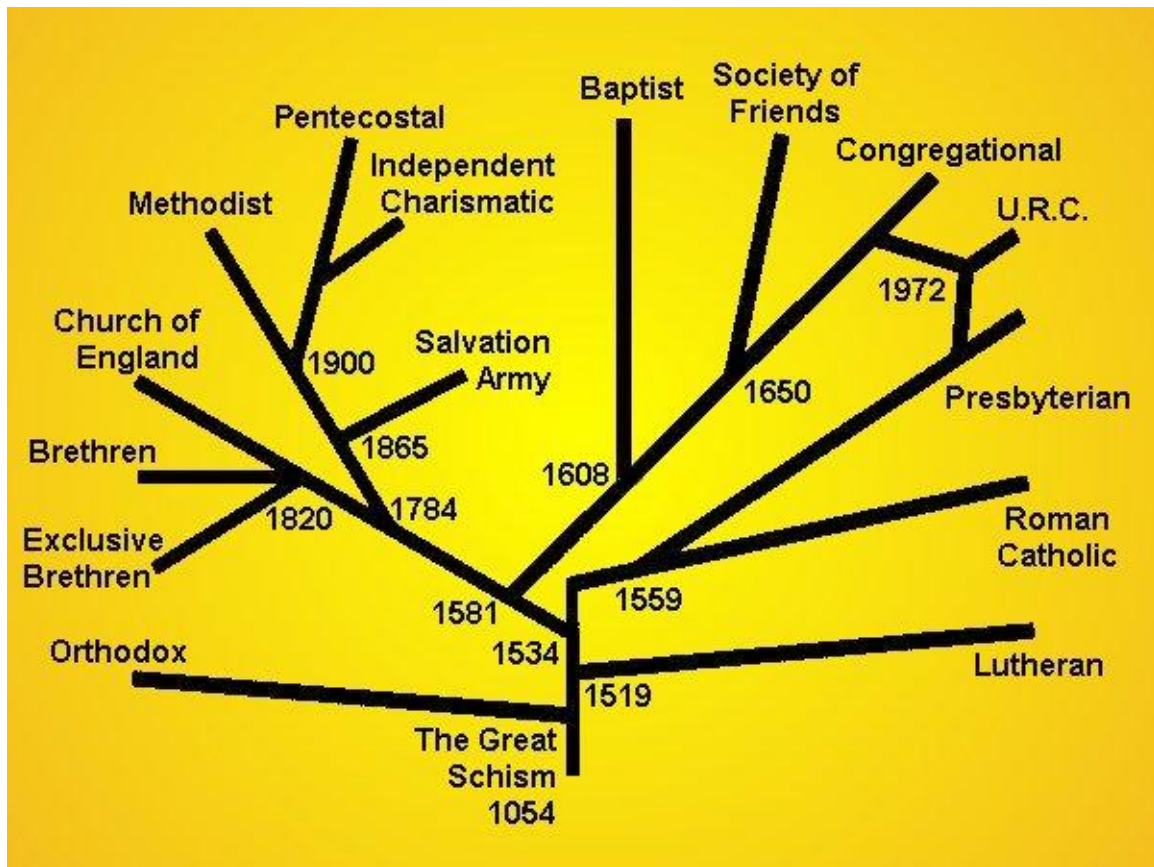
Matthew 28.20

Acts 2.42

Acts 20.27

Acts 18.24-26

7. What is the basic history of denominations?



8. How do we “respectfully” disagree?

- A. We are careful to _____.
- B. We compare to _____ (Acts 17.11)
- C. We do not _____ their teachings.
- D. We pray for _____ for ourselves and others.