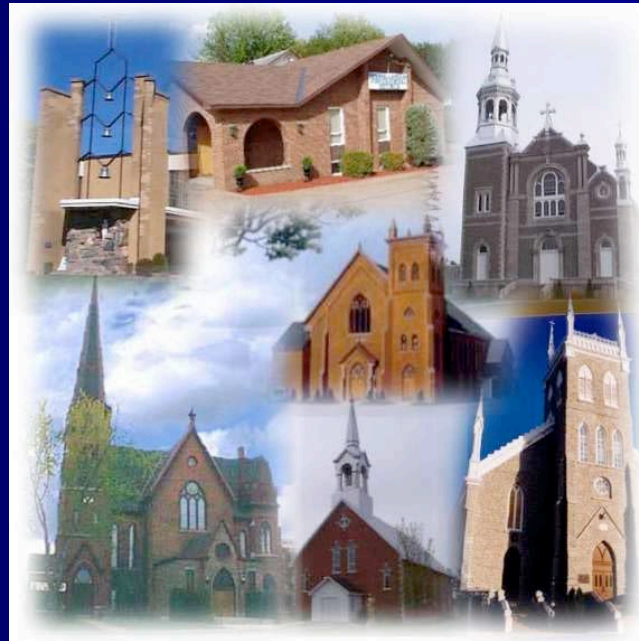


# Following Jesus Without Denominationalism



“that they all may be one”

John 17:20-23



# What Is Wrong With Denominationalism?

Many who love Jesus often wonder...

- Why are there so many denominations?
- 45,000 denominations, over 2 forming every day?
- Can't followers of Jesus learn to get along?
- Does denominational division really matter?
- What can be done about religious division?
- Is it possible to be simply a Christian, to follow Jesus without being a member of a denomination?



# What Is Wrong With Denominationalism?

## What is a denomination...?

- A large group of congregations united under a common faith and name, and organized under a single administrative and legal hierarchy **AHD**
- Churches connected under one governing body **MAC**
- With distinctive names, creeds & doctrines that serve to distinguish (denominate) them from others
- There are over 45,000 denominations **The Center For The Study Of Global Christianity (2016)**



# What Is Wrong With Denominationalism?

## What is denominationalism...?

- The tendency to separate into religious denominations **AHD**
- Devotion to denominational principles or interest **Webster**
- The approval and/or acceptance of denominational division as it exists today **MAC**

Denominationalism is a mindset that thinks there is nothing wrong with 45,000 denominations!



# What Is Wrong With Denominationalism?

## Why is denominationalism wrong...?

- It is un-scriptural *Ac 20:17,28; 1Pe 5:1-2*
- It is anti-scriptural *Jn 17:20-23; 1Co 1:10-13; Ep 2:14-16*
- It is harmful to the cause of Christ *Jn 17:21,23*
  - “that the world may believe that You sent Me”
  - “that the world might know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me”

Denominationalism hinders many people from believing in God and Jesus!



# What Is Wrong With Denominationalism?

## Martin Luther:

"I ask that men make no reference to my name, and call themselves not Lutherans, but Christians. What is Luther? My doctrine, I am sure, is not mine, nor have I been crucified for any one. St. Paul, in 1 Cor. 1, would not allow Christians to call themselves Pauline or Petrine, but Christian."

"How then should I, poor, foul carcass that I am, come to have men give to the children of Christ a name derived from my worthless name? No, no, my dear friends; let us abolish all party names, and call ourselves Christians after Him Whose doctrine we have."



# What Is Wrong With Denominationalism?

## John Wesley:

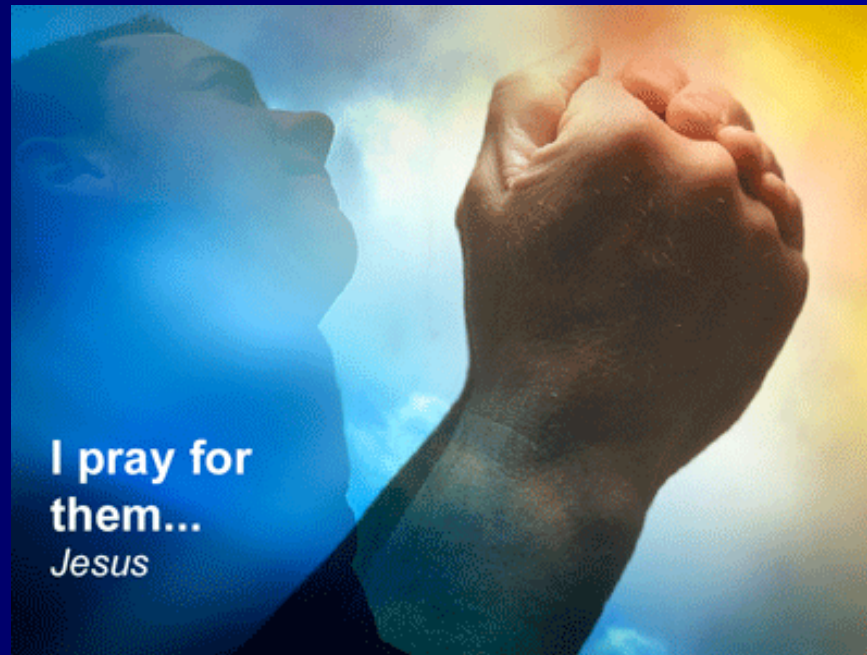
"Would to God that all party names, and unscriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christian world, were forgot and that the very name [Methodist] might never be mentioned more, but be buried in eternal oblivion."

## Charles Spurgeon:

"I look forward with pleasure to the day when there will not be a Baptist living! I hope that the Baptist name will soon perish, but let Christ's name last forever."



# Following Jesus Without Denominationalism

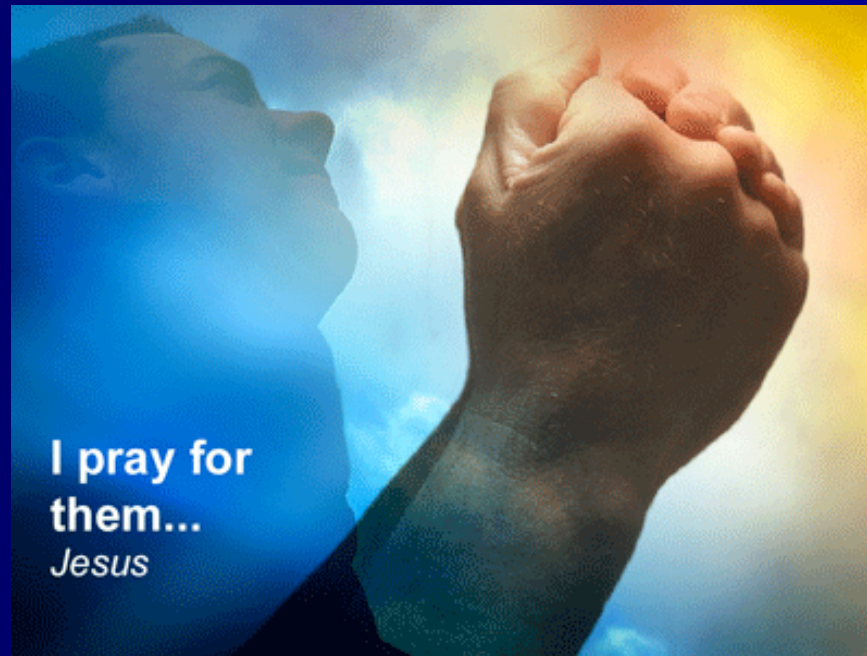


Will we heed the prayer of Jesus?

John 17:20-23



# Following Jesus Without Denominationalism



Next

The Way Out Of Religious Division