

Should the University church of Christ Exist?

www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: It is important to see clearly where Jesus expects us to stand.

- A. When one examines the evidence for Jesus Christ and the Bible, he sees God's plan to clearly communicate to men the path to God. **(Jn 8:31-32)**
 - 1. Why did God reveal Jesus the way He did?
 - 2. His plan was for men to be humble and dug deep for the truth.
 - 3. Men of necessity had to learn to discern, reason and deal with relationships that challenged men to different paths.
- B. The religious bodies of the day all were in opposition to Jesus and His way.
 - 1. What answer would be given to "who is Jesus of Nazareth?"
(Jn 7:47-49; Mt 16:13-15)
 - 2. Should men disagree with the trained theologians of the day? Jesus asked: "But who do you say I am?"
 - 3. What religious body did Jesus become a part of? **(Mt 15:12-14)**
 - 4. Should this church exist? Are we following Jesus Christ or men?

I. Jesus established His church for all of His followers

- A. Jesus came to be "the great shepherd" over all men that would come to Him.
 - 1. Jesus would establish a church, a body of men under His headship.
(Mt 16:18; Lk 6:46)
 - 2. The apostles were an essential element in the formation and direction of this body. **(Acts 1:8; 2:14)**
 - 3. It was the apostle's doctrine that would be the sole guide of this new body. **(Acts 2:42; 1 Jn 4:1, 6)**
- B. It became clear that the Lord revealed new provisions through the apostles.
 - 1. There were to be local organized bodies called "churches." **(Acts 14:23)**
 - 2. There was to be specific assemblies and specific things done in those assemblies. **(1 Cor 11:23-25)**
 - 3. Should apostolic authority be followed today? If so, how should we view the writings given in the New Testament?
 - 4. The battleground in the 1st century is the same battleground today. Do we "hold fast to the head" or will we be moved by relationships and pious looking people? **(Col 2:18-19)**

II. Jesus gave a pattern for the salvation of all men

- A. Paul spoke of a "form of doctrine" when obeyed from the heart that would set men free from sin. **(Rom 6:17-18)**
 - 1. "form"- τύπος- pattern, example, model, standard. – Newman's Lexicon
 - 2. We learn that Jesus has given and understandable pattern to obey. This is one of many conditional promises which are doorways to God's grace.
- B. This pattern was first revealed on Pentecost.

1. As a fulfillment of prophecy, there will be revealed a way to call upon the name of the Lord for salvation! **(Acts 2:21)**
2. When men asked how to do that, they were given a specific, understandable conditional promise. **(Acts 2:36-38)**
- C. How can I be sure what the Head wants concerning my teaching on salvation?
 1. Can I be sure about this? Look at what the apostles did and what they wrote. Take all the Bible says on this subject and see the harmony.
 2. What did Jesus teach in the great commission? **(Mk 16:15-16)**
 3. How did Paul obey that “form of doctrine?” **(Acts 22:16)**
- D. Can we know and stand on these clear promises?
 1. If one has sincerely misunderstood, then they need to be taught the correct “form of doctrine” and obey it. **(Acts 19:1-5)**
 2. Those who teach another “form of doctrine” are not with fellowship with God. **(Gal 1:6-10)**
 3. In history these questions have always demanded a common understanding or a separation in fellowship.
 4. Are there other churches in Auburn taking such a stand?

III. Jesus gave a pattern for our worship in local churches

- A. Simple instructions were delivered by the apostles. **(1 Cor 11:23-25)**
 1. What elements are to be used and for what purpose?
 2. We simply take all of the divine instructions and stay with what has been delivered.
 3. “Where does the bible say not to use hamburger?”
- B. The first day of the week is a God ordained day for a specific kind of assembly. **(1 Cor 16:1-2; Acts 20:7)**
 1. The same approach to the apostle’s instructions gives us a sure path.
 2. What is the difference between one who views the apostle’s instructions as divine or a product of 1st century culture?
(1 Thess 2:13; 2 Thess 3:6, 14)
 3. This approach will also make a difference is how we sing to God!
- C. The work of local churches is plainly given by the apostles. **(Eph 4:11-12)**
 1. How did Jesus equip His church? What is the purpose?
 2. Does it matter how a church spends the money on the first day of the week? Any churches in Auburn taking this stand?
 3. What if this church decided to extend fellowship to others churches without any doctrinal discernment? **(2 Jn 9-11)**
 4. A compromised fellowship will in time determine practice! **(1 Cor 5:6)**

Conclusion: Is undenominational Christianity possible? There is a great challenge and a great freedom in such a stand!