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Denominationalism thus represents the moral failure of Christianity.... Before the church can hope to overcome its fatal division it must learn to recognize and to acknowledge the secular character of its denominationalism.'

# Hours before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed

◇ Jn.17 –

**20** “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Jesus does not ask –

- ◇ God to spare them from persecution
- ◇ That world would listen to their message

Jesus does pray –

- ◇ For their unity

A divided group could  
not conquer the world

# 2000 years later, division everywhere

◇ Religious surveys

◇ Radio

'This is not experiential unity, but the unity of common eternal life shared by all who believe the truth, and it results in the one body of Christ all sharing His life'

◇ John 17:11 [20] 21-22 –Godhead?

◇ 1 Co.1:10

Ep.4:4; 1:22-23

# What Is Wrong With Denominationalism?

# I. It Hinders Honesty

# Prov.23:23

- Most demand truth everywhere else
- 1 Tim.1:3

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia —remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine.

# Denominationalism hinders honesty . . .

- Sincerity trumps truth. Jn.13:6-8
  - “Everybody is right”
  - “All roads end in same place”
  - “All worship same God, read same Bible, go to same heaven”
    - Tolerate it in schools?
    - Baptism: what difference does it make in mode or motive?



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- Sincerity trumps truth. Jn.13:6-8
- Substitutes 'love' for truth. Jn.14:15
- Slaughters truth on altar of 'unity' -
  - Makes Jn.8:32 absurd
  - Inconsistent

I. It Hinders Honesty

**II. It Destroys Basis  
of Morals**

## Prov.4:16

- Man kills another man, eats him.
- Man / animal eats animal.
  - Bible is standard, Gn.1; 9; Ac.10
  - Bible has influence

# Denominationalism destroys standard for morals

'Mk.16:16 doesn't mean what it says'

- Deposes Bible's authority
- Urge church to meet on Friday...
- If ignore Bible in worship, why not morals?

Denominations have failed on every  
moral issue confronting our society

I. It Hinders Honesty

II. It Destroys Basis of Morals

**III. It is Spiritual Rebellion**

Honest thinking seeks biblical guidance on morals and worship

Spiritual rebellion attacks both

Jn.17:21

Attitude of denominations encourages skepticism, agnosticism, even atheism

Gal.1:13, 23

- Paul preaches what he persecuted.
- Could he preach both at once?

Honest thinking seeks biblical guidance on morals and worship

Spiritual rebellion attacks both

Would God 'call' men to contradict one another?

- Mt.16:5-12

Pharisee

Sadducee

Of Christ

- Would contradict Lord's prayer, Jn.17



What can we do to  
correct the situation?

Think biblically. Mt.15:12-14

Teach biblically. Ga.1:6-9