

# Biblical Proof For Denominations?

# A defense

- ‘Many that may be wrong in some aspects of their presentation or teaching, yet they still set forth Jesus in some manner’
- ‘Those who are not against a Biblical Jesus are still for Him, at least in some way’
- ‘If a man be not an open enemy to Christ, he ought to be presumed to be his friend...’
- ‘There is far more than one way to God’

I. Who Is Not Against Us Is  
For Us – Mk.9:38-41

# Mark 9:38-41

## Assumption and Application:

- Denomination 1 is jealous over Denom. 2.
- Jesus would say, 'stop fighting; get along.'
  - Some commend denominations for 'good work' in fighting immoral agendas.
  - The more 'good' they do, the more people they deceive.

1 Kings 13; Mt.7:22-23

Jesus warns about Pharisees: Mt.6; 23

# Mark 9:38-41

Correction: 38

- The man did not stubbornly refused to join Jesus and disciples.
- John rebuked Him for not following them.
- John's view: only apostles trained by Lord were permitted to serve Him?
  - Mk.5:19-20
  - Lk.10:1...17

# Mark 9:38-41

## Context

- Apostles had failed, 14-18 [Lk.9:46]
- 33-37:

Some pervert Lord's remarks to children to prove infant baptism.

Some pervert Mark 9 to prove denominationalism.

# Mark 9:38-41

## Miracle: 39

- The man works a miracle; he must be Lord's disciple.

Disciples relied on miracles to prove God sent them.

They reject same proof for this man.

- Lk.9:49, exorcism: he CANNOT serve satan.
- Lk.9:50, MUST be Lord's servant (22:9-12)

# Mark 9:38-41

In My name: 39

- Jesus approves; man acts with His authority.
- **Mk.1:34** – Jesus silenced demons though they confessed truth, but not this man because he is a disciple.
- **Mk.16:17** – does not limit miraculous power to apostles (cf. Philip: Ac.8).
- **Col.3:17** – not merely saying words (as Jews, **Ac.19:13-20**).



# Mark 9:38-41

## Explanation: 40-41

- We know this man is 'on our side' as we know a tree... (Mt.7:15-20).
- Denominationalism is bad fruit – Mt.15:14

# Mark 9:38-41

## Conclusion:

- What proves too much, proves nothing.
- Those who squeeze denominations into passage make it impossible to reject any heretic.

Jews?

Mormons?

Muslims?

Watchtower?

# Mark 9:38-41

## Proper application of passage:

- John opposes another disciple; Lord says 'Stop it!'
- Ph.1:15-17, they preach Christ (Ac.8) – denominations do NOT
  - Ct. Ph.3:2-4
- Joshua showed same spirit as John – Num.11:26-29

I. Who Is Not Against Us Is For Us – Mk.9

II. Sailing The Seas Of  
Supposition – Mk.4:36

# Mark 4:36

Supposition:

- TV preacher: 'other boats' [people not in same boat with Jesus] proves denominations scriptural.

# Mark 4:36

## Context:

- Jesus had just urged others to follow Him.
  - His boat was too small to hold them all.
  - How else could they follow Him across lake?
  - To follow in other boats does NOT imply they believe different doctrines than disciples.
  - People on land follow Him in different shoes... clothes... bodies... on different donkeys...
  - Those who disagree **do not follow** (Jn.6).
  - Ac.27: in same boat with Paul – all rescued (?)

# Mark 4:36

## Context:

- If Passage approves of denominations, it does so with silence AND contradicts other passages (e.g.: Jn.17).
- If this proves Jesus accepts denominations with different doctrines...it proves there are different ways to get 'there.'
  - Consequence: Jesus is NOT the way, Jn.14:6.
  - Consequence: all in same sea going to same place in different boats

# Mark 4:36

Context: different boats . . .

Mohammed?  
Buddha?



Confucius?  
Humanists?

Atheists & idolaters,  
Ac.28:11

Paul rode in their ship. Imply agreement?  
1 Co.4:17



# Mark 4:36

Proper use of passage:

- There is no neutrality with Jesus.
- We either follow Him or we don't (Mt.12:30).

## Comparison

Mk.9:38 – not WITH us

Mk.4:36 – WITH Him, but believe differently