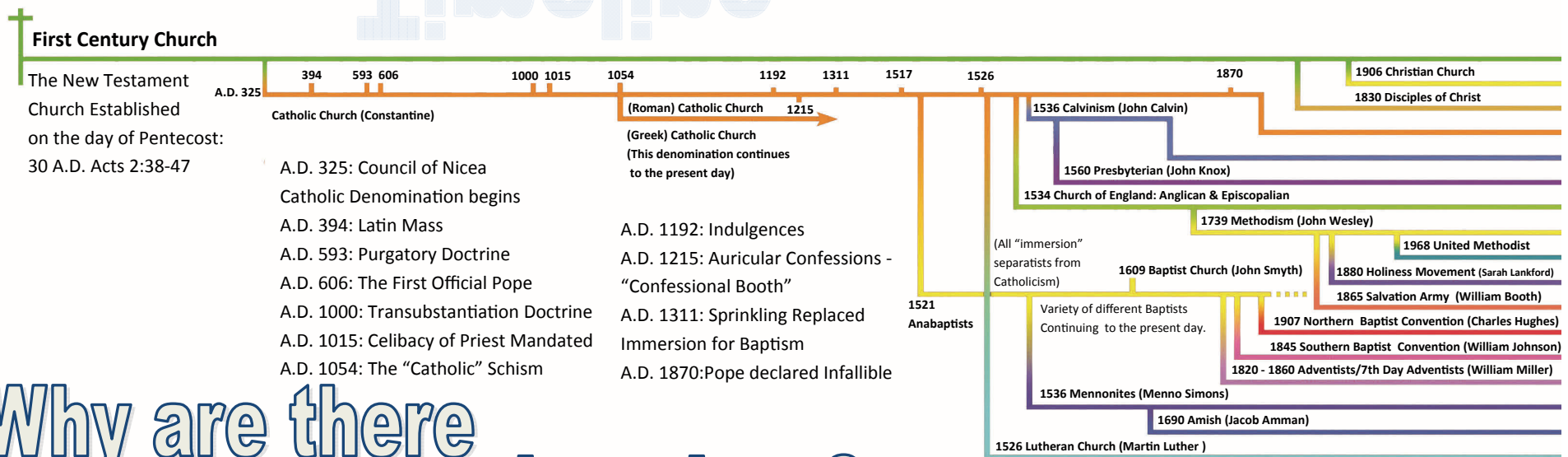


Modern Churches

Timeline



Why are there so many churches?

With tens of thousands of different churches and denominations, with their opposing beliefs and practices in the world today, we are often left confused. Which church is the "right" church? Which church does God approve? Which church did Christ establish? In Acts 2, we read of the one true church that was established by Jesus Christ and sanctioned by God. Many religious groups have departed from the first century church, splintering into the various churches and denominations we see today. If we seek to be the one true church established by Jesus Christ in the first century, as described in Acts 2, we must rid ourselves of man-made creeds, doctrines and traditions, and become the first century church we read about in the New Testament.

Denominationalism Contradicts the Bible - Part 1

Denominationalism Teaches

The Bible Teaches

There are many bodies or churches	→	One Body/Church (1 Corinthians 12:20)
Churches founded by men	→	Church Founded by Christ (Matthew 16:18)
Human heads of the church	→	Christ is the Head (Ephesians 1:22-23)
Human Creeds	→	Bible is the only guide (2 Timothy 3:6-17)
Wear human names	→	Glorify God as a Christian (1 Peter 4:16)
Follows men	→	Condemns following men (1 Cor. 1:10-13)
Multiplicity of churches	→	One Church (Romans 16:16)
Membership not essential	→	Saved are added to the church (Acts 2:47)
Preaches many gospels	→	Only one gospel (Galatians 1:8-9)

"But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine." Titus 2:1



Barnes' Bible Charts

Christ Wants Unity in His Church

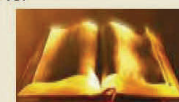
Christ prayed for Unity - John 17

Christ established one church . . . not many churches - Matthew 16:18; Acts 2

CHRIST ESTABLISHED:

- Unity of **ORGANIZATION** →
- Unity of **WORSHIP** →
- Unity of **FELLOWSHIP** →
- Unity of **FAITH** →
- Unity of **DOCTRINE** →
- Unity of **OBEDIENCE** →
- Unity of **PURPOSE** →
- Unity of **WORK** →
- Unity of **LOVE** →
- Unity of **GUIDANCE** →
- Unity of **PURPOSE** →
- Unity of **PRAYER** →
- Unity of **UNITY** →

I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.



John 17:20-23

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1 Corinthians 1:10

Barnes' Bible Charts



Denominationalism Contradicts the Bible - Part 2

Denominationalism Teaches

The Bible Teaches

Rewrites creeds from time to time	→	God's Word never changes (Matthew 24:35)
Teaches many faiths	→	"One faith" (Ephesians 4:5)
Teaches many baptisms	→	"One baptism" (Ephesians 4:5)
Teaches that people join churches	→	The Lord adds the saved to the church (Acts 2:47)
Claim to be abiding branches of the Church	→	Branches are individuals, not churches (John 15:1-6)
Walk by different rules	→	Walk by the same rule (Philippians 3:16)
Thanks God for many churches	→	Jesus prayed for oneness (John 17:20-21)
Claim doctrine is inconsequential	→	Doctrine is important (1 Timothy 4:16)

"There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."
Proverbs 14:12



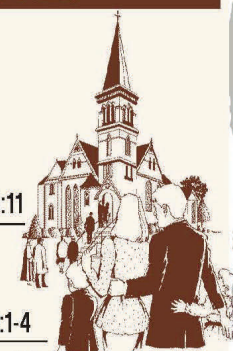
Barnes' Bible Charts

A Sound Church

A sound church is not merely a church that sounds good, but rather one that is firmly anchored in truth!

"That they may be sound"
Titus 1:13

Sound in DOCTRINE	• Titus 2:1
Sound in FAITH	• Titus 1:13
Sound in UNITY	• John 17
Sound in ORGANIZATION	• Ephesians 4:11
Sound in WORK	• Titus 3:1
Sound in WORSHIP	• John 4:24
Sound in TEACHING	• 2 Timothy 4:1-4
Sound in GIVING	• 2 Corinthians 9:7-8
Sound in ZEAL	• 2 Corinthians 9:2
Sound in LEADERSHIP	• Acts 2:38



"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine." Titus 2:1

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