

REASONS FOR DIVISION

Inappropriate:

- 1) Pride / Superiority
- 2) Minor differences
 - ↳ Like, who baptized you (1115)
- 3) Issues who attempt to resolve in Godly way

Appropriate

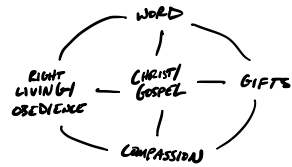
- 1) False teaching on important issues
- 2) Unimportant sin
- 3) Divisional + deception

→ But still called to love.

SCRIPTURE

*Rom 16:17-18
1 Cor 5:7-13
Matt 7:15-16
Galatians 1:8

"On majors, unity.
On minors, liberty.
In everything, charity."



Denominations

Beliefs + practices

Resurrection ←
Jesus = God ←
Trinity ←
Salvation by faith alone ←
Scripture authoritative ←

Teach the Bible ←
Gifts of the Spirit ←
Serving / work focus ←

DOGMA

Essential / core

FOUNDATIONS

→ Other religions
→ Cults

DENOMINATIONAL
REQUIRED

5 CHRISTIANS ↓

Healthy

DOCTRINES

→ Baptism / tongues req. for salvation
→ Word not relevant
→ emotion focus
→ "prosperity" focus
→ miracles focus
→ self-help messages

DENOMINATIONAL
SEPARATION
RECOMMENDED

↑ DIVISIONS vs ↓ DISTINCTIONS ↓

Literal 1,000 yr reign ←
Mostly Teach Thru the Word ←

Opinion

→ KJV only
→ Calvinism
→ daily topical Scripture study

CAN BE
A BIT
UNCOMFORTABLE

↓

Band music, guitars, lights ←
Casual dress ←
Worship teaching ←
Intellectual / Christmatic study ←

Style

PREFERENCE, METHOD,
MODEL

→ Chorus / a cappella
→ Formal dress
→ 20 min teaching

MEH.
CHURCH BY
CHURCH

AT DIVISIONS VS DISTINCTIONS

c. Though division is ungodly, it is not wrong to make distinctions between churches and ministers. God has made different churches and different ministries with different callings and characters, because the job of preaching the gospel is too big for any one group.

i. "I bless God that there are so many denominations. If there were not men who differed a little in their creeds, we should never get as much gospel as we do... God has sent different men to defend different kinds of truth; but Christ defended and preached all... Christ's testimony was perfect." (Spurgeon)

ii. It is one thing to prefer one minister to another, but we cannot divide into cliques behind one minister or another. "One minister of Christ may be justly preferred to another. We ought to honour those most whom God most honoureth, either by a more plentiful giving out of his Spirit, or by a more plentiful success upon their labours; but we ought not so far to appropriate any ministers to ourselves, as for them to despise others. We are not bound to make every minister our pastor, but we are bound to have a just respect for every minister, who by his doctrine and holy life answereth his profession and holy calling." (Poole)

d. Is Christ divided? Jesus does not belong to any one "party." These cliques ignore the truth of unity over all diversity in the church, even if they were all in the name of spirituality.

i. Spiritual elitism is abhorrent, no matter whose name it is practiced in.

ii. There was an old, contentious Quaker who went from one meeting to another, never finding the "true" church. Someone once said to him, "Well, what church are you in now?" He said, "I am in the true church at last." "How many belong to it?" "Just my wife and myself, and I am not sure about her sometimes."

START

Once I saw this guy on a bridge about to jump. I said, "Don't do it!" He said, "Nobody loves me." I said, "God loves you. Do you believe in God?"

He said, "Yes." I said, "Are you a Christian or a Jew?" He said, "A Christian." I said, "Me, too! Protestant or Catholic?" He said, "Protestant." I said, "Me, too! What franchise?" He said, "Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?" He said, "Northern Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?"

He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region, or Northern Conservative Baptist Eastern Region?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region." I said, "Me, too!"

Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912." I said, "Die, heretic!" And I pushed him over.

Stupid

- How many angels fit on the head of a pin
- Who baptized you
- Are pets in heaven