

Help in Misunderstanding the Bible

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelist

Danny Boggs
Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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In his Workbook on Denominational Doctrines, Volume One, J. Curtis Manor provides the best explanation I have ever seen of why people would want denominations to exist. He names some seeming benefits, but then explains the problems on pages 76-78. I appreciate the permission he granted us years ago to reprint the following section which focuses on the centralized government of many denominations.

Danny Boggs

If centralization offers such benefits, then what is wrong with it? If it makes for greater efficiency in getting the church's work done, what's the harm in it?

The biggest fault, of course, is that it is not God's plan. It is foreign to the New Testament scriptures, and to the practice of the first-century churches which were based upon the teaching of those scriptures. But if it is more expedient, if it works better, is it not an improvement? Doesn't God expect us to do our best, and use the most effective means and techniques at our disposal in the working of His will?

First, we must never assume that God has overlooked any good thing. If an existing thing is good, God has the wisdom to recognize it and use it. If a good thing doesn't exist, He has the power to bring it into existence. It should be pointed out that central government is not unknown to the word of God. If ever there was a tighter master organization to govern and regulate the religious life of man than the Roman Catholic hierarchy, it can readily be found in the Bible itself, in the structure of the Old Testament theocracy of Israel, with its high priest, prophets, and strict regulations of enforcement and administration. No, God didn't design the New Testament church in locally autonomous congregations because He didn't know about central control, or because His people had no experience with it. *He designed it that way because He wanted it that way.*

Many of the very benefits of centralization, as viewed by the world, are its *flaws* when considered from the point of view of God's purposes for His

people. In the matter of enforced unity, it has been abundantly demonstrated that error can be enforced as well as truth. If one independent congregation out of thousands should stray from the faith in some way, its effects on the universal body of Christ is minimal; but when heresy permeates a bureaucracy the entire fellowship is threatened.

Regarding mobilization for political or social clout, these areas of operation are foreign to the mission of the Lord's church, which is designed to change the world by converting the individual, who then serves as a leavening influence within his own sphere of living—religious, moral, social, cultural, occupational, political, and whatever. The primary purpose of God's church is to save souls, not to be a legislative institution. Bureaucracy may indeed provide a better machine for high-pressure financial tactics, but God's way for the church is love and voluntary generosity at the personal level. In short, God's way places maximum responsibility upon the individual and those nearest to him, thus permitting freedom for effective operation within virtually any framework of government, culture, or economic circumstances.

Perhaps the most pertinent consideration of all, though, both for and against bureaucratic control (depending on which side of the controversy one stands), is the fact that some form of central government is vital to the continued life and function of a *denomination*. It has been demonstrated over and over that, left free to study and interpret the Bible for themselves, believers will renounce their denominational allegiances and gravitate to simple, New Testament Christianity. Only by employing some method of enforcing a party line, whereby individuals can be told what the Bible is *supposed* to mean, can denominational vested interests survive. It has been rightly observed: "People have to have a great deal of help to misunderstand the Bible." *The chief function of denominational organization is to provide that help.* Without it the denomination would die, and its leaders would not only be out of a job, but even worse, without any following.

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Ed and Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Glen Crumbliss, Eli Dodson, Joe Freund, Wilma Hill, Cheryl Neilans, Angel Rivera, Alondra Rivera, Edith Toney, Bobbie Tuggle, Ruth Ann Wilson.

Debi Wince will have knee surgery tomorrow.

Our hearts and prayers go out to **Glen Honeycutt** and his family on the death of his brother-in-law.

We express our sympathy to the family of **Tim Hayes** who lost his battle with cancer. The family will be receiving friends on Saturday from 1:00-3:00 at the Seneca Church of Christ.

Update on our **2018 Christmas family**: Angel had radiation for the brain tumor and it has decreased in size. He recently had some complications but is now home. His mother, Alondra, is scheduled for two biopsies. They have asked for our prayers for their family.



every **ONE** counts!

Every "One" Counts: Remember when you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. A local family was in need of some assistance this week and your funds helped them. If you know someone who needs immediate help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Ladies: Sign language class will meet this Thursday in the fellowship room.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M.: *The Revealed Glory of God: Luke 9:28-36*
Pat Andrews

P.M.: Casey Flint

The **Summer Youth Series Devo** is tonight at the Kings'. Boys bring chips and drinks, and girls bring desserts. It will be held on Tuesday nights at 6:00 p.m. throughout the summer. (June 25 - Collinsworths', July 2 - Flints')



Remember the 70th Wedding Anniversary for **Ed and Vera Cornell** this Sunday from 1:00 – 2:30 in the activities center. No gifts please Your continued love and support is the gift!

Men's BBQ Night: Thursday night, June 27. We'll leave the Hillcrest parking lot at 6:00 Thursday for a location to be announced next week.



June 30 is a **fifth Sunday**. Be praying about your contribution that day. All extra, above the budget, goes to help pay off the cost of the activities center.

There will be a **baby shower** July 7 at 4:00 in the fellowship room for April Fehring. She is registered at Target and Walmart. (No clothes, please)

PreVBS: Parents, bring your kids to services early Sunday nights, June 30, July 7, and July 14. At 5:40, we'll sit at the front, sing some VBS songs, preview the VBS lessons, get fired up about inviting friends, and pray for the friends we're inviting.



Vacation Bible School

6:30-8:15, July 21-24

Wednesday night, Joe McLain thanked the congregation for their expressions of sympathy, the plant that was sent, and the cards that were given to him and his family following the death of his son-in-law.

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, June 23

- AM Opening: Bryan Reiboldt
- AM Closing: Tony Flint
- PM Opening: Ethan Murray
- PM Closing: Zane Berner

Wednesday, June 26

- Opening: Eldon Morgan
- Closing: Kaed Thomas

RECORDS	06-16-19	06-17-18
Bible Study	147	150
AM Worship	201	194
PM Worship	128	131
Wednesday	95	88
Contribution	\$7,439.01	\$9,896.41
Budget	\$7,717.37	\$7,630.58