

Why Do We Have Denominations - Part 2 Wednesday 2-18-2026

Have you ever read in the Bible, "God is not the author of confusion."

- **1 Corinthians 14:33**

- 33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. If God is not an advocate for confusion in the church how did we get to the place where we have so many denominations under the Christian umbrella that are teaching different practices?

When you read about the New Testament church in the Bible there is only one church and it belong to Jesus Christ!

- **Ephesians 1:22-23**

- 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
- 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:
 - ◆ 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,
- 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

- **Colossians 1:18**

- 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Question:

1. If Christ is the head of the church which is His body and He came to unify the body how did we get here?

Jesus came to unify the body not to start a new religion nor to create a denomination. It was His desire for us all to be perfectly together!

- **Matthew 5:17**

- 17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth expressed Jesus's desire for the church to perfectly live together in unified harmony.

- **1 Corinthians 1:10**

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

Question:

2. How did we get so divided and did God warn us?

Division In Body

The New Testament Church was one complete body but there were some existence of division. This

division was found in the Corinthian Church and Paul addressed this thought process head on.

- **1 Corinthians 1:11-21**

False Teachings

The New Testament Church also had to deal the existence of false teachings. False teaching in the New Testament often focused on denying Jesus's divinity, humanity, promoting legalism over grace, or encouraging immoral behavior.

- **1 John 4:1-3** The spirit of the Antichrist
- **Jude 1:4** Teaching of immortality in the name of Jesus
- **2 Peter 2:1-3** Peter warns us of false teachers

God used Jesus, Paul, and Peter to warn us of false teachers who often emerge from within the church, promoting selfish, divisive, and destructive heresies. They are identified by their "fruit," including false teachings, greed, and immorality.

Question:

What event caused the great church division?

The church was changed forever by a Roman Emperor named Constantine who converted to Christianity. Most historians have mixed views as to if his conversion was genuine or politically moved! Constantine's legalization of Christianity via the Edict of Milan (313 AD) transformed it from a persecuted minority faith into a privileged, state-supported religion.

The legalization of Christianity in the Roman Empire may way for the creation of the Roman Catholic Church which was structured like the Roman government.

The Roman Catholic Church structure closely mirrors the hierarchical, administrative, and territorial organization of the Roman Empire, inheriting its centralized, top-down governance model. The Pope acts similarly to a Roman Emperor, utilizing a hierarchical structure of bishops, dioceses, and canon law that parallels imperial bureaucracy.

Comparison Chart: Roman Catholic Church vs. Roman Government

Church Hierarchy (Level)	Representative Position (Church)	Corresponding Roman Govt/ Army Position	Purpose/Role
Highest Authority	Pope (Bishop of Rome)	Emperor (or Caesar)	Ultimate authority, legislative power,

			head of state/ church.
Central Advisory	Cardinals (College of Cardinals)	Senate / Consilium Principis	Top advisors to the sovereign; administrative aid.
Regional Overseer	Archbishop / Metropolitan	Vicarius (Vicar of a Diocese)	Oversees multiple provinces/ dioceses.
Territorial Leader	Bishop (Bishop of a Diocese)	Governor / Comes (Count)	Head of a specific geographic territory (Diocese).
Local Administrator	Priest / Pastor	Municipal Magistrate (Duoviri)	Manages local, everyday affairs of a district (Parish).
Regional Center	Archdiocese / Cathedral	Civitas / Provincial Capital	Administrative headquarters for the region.
Local Unit	Parish	Municipium / Town	Smallest administrative unit.
Law System	Canon Law	Roman Law (Corpus Juris Civilis)	Legal system governing the organization.