



## Does It Really Make a Difference - Part 3

Over the last two weeks we've looked at some differences between the current day denominations and the church of the New Testament. Some of the differences we've looked at are: who founded the church, what doctrine and teacher to follow, and what we have to do to please God. We now want to conclude our thoughts along this line by discussing some of the practices of the denominational churches and those of the New Testament church.

**Multiple collections.** In a lot of denominational churches, multiple collections are either taken during each service or multiple times through the week. It has led, in my opinion, to many people "tuning out" religion" because they think churches just want their money. What they fail to realize is the practice of multiple collections is not found in the New Testament. Paul said, "*On the first day of the week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come*" (I Cor. 16:2). Paul, being inspired of the Holy Spirit, limits the time money can be gathered to Sunday. That's it. Not every time the church comes together, no matter how noble the cause might be.

**Elevating women to leadership positions.** Most readers know this writer well enough to know that I am not a chauvinist nor do I wish to "hold women down." However, the scriptures are clear when it comes to the topic of women in leadership positions within the church. Paul said, "*But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet*" (I Tim. 2:12). This statement by the inspired apostle would cover positions such as preachers, elders (pastors), deacons, etc. There is growing pressure to conform to the standards of the world, but we must remember who it is we serve.

**Infrequency of the Lord's Supper.** The Lord's Supper was a weekly remembrance of the first century Christians and should be that way today (Acts 20:7). For many people, though, it is an observance that only takes place once a month, once a quarter, or even once a year. The purpose of the Lord's Supper seems to be lost by those who partake of it on such an infrequent basis. Paul said, "*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes*" (I Cor. 11:26). Paul says the purpose of the Lord's Supper is to remember the death of our Savior. Why wouldn't we want to remember the Lord's death the way He desires?

Over the last couple of weeks we've looked at just a few differences between the present day denominations and the church for which Jesus died. There are many more we could examine, but these should suffice. We've shown that it does make a difference in what we believe and who we follow after. It's now up to us to examine what we believe and make the necessary changes in our life. May God bless you as you strive to seek out Him and His way.

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