

Banner: THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

“NOT-DENOMINATIONAL” CHRISTIANITY

The term “undenominational Christianity” means different things to different people. To some it means the unconditional acceptance of anyone regardless of their religious persuasion. To others it may mean being independent of a denominational hierarchy, synod, convention, or other organization.

The actual meaning of the term is much more limited. It simply means “not denominational.” Christianity that is not denominational has no connection in any sense with denominational concepts or institutions. Original Christianity (that which is revealed in the New Testament) is not denominational. The fact is that no organized religious denominations as we know them today existed in the first century. There was no Roman Catholic Church or Protestant denominations. Neither Peter, Paul or John were members of different denominations or different kinds of churches. . They were all members of the one church which Jesus built (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47). The church we read about in the New Testament has no earthly headquarters nor organization larger than the local congregation. Jesus is the HEAD of HIS church which is His spiritual body (Ephesians 1:22-23). The New Testament church has no denominational creed book, confession of faith, church manual or catechism. It has only the New Testament of Jesus Christ as its rule of faith and practice and which constitutes the final authority in all religious matters (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Each congregation of the New Testament church is self-governing. Its congregations answer to no central headquarters, synod or convention or the like. A plurality of qualified men called elders (also called pastors, presbyters and bishops – Acts 14:23; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 4:14; 3:1; Titus 1:5-7) have the oversight and responsibility in each local congregation to see that the Lord’s work is carried out (Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17). They are assisted by qualified men called deacons (servants- Phil 1:1; Titus 3:8ff).. Not-denominational Christianity is as distinct from denominationalism as light is from darkness. Faithful churches of Christ are making every effort to practice original Christianity. We plead with men and women everywhere to return to the Word of God and reject anything for which there is no Bible authority (that which God has not given us permission to do). Whatever we do in religious matters, whether it be the mission, the organization or the worship of the church, must be done with the authority of Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17). If “not denominational” Christianity appeals to you, we invite you to come and worship with us at the Green Plain church of Christ and see original New Testament Christianity in action. May God bless you consistent with His divine will.. If you have questions or comments, please direct them to email: greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org or call 270-492-8206. Write us at Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris RD, Hazel, KY 42049.