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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: *What makes the Good Hope Rd. Church of Christ different from other Churches of Christ?*

You may have noticed driving around there are several church buildings with signs reading "Church of Christ." "Church of Christ" is the name given by the Lord for His churches (Rom 16:16). Not every church calling itself the "Church of Christ" is identical to other congregations going by the same name. So what's the difference between these congregations?

## THE DIFFERENCES

### 1) The Good Hope Rd. Church of Christ uses only one loaf and one cup in communion.

There are five Bible passages which describe the Lord's supper (or communion).

- Mt 26
- Mk 14
- Lk 22
- 1 Cor 10
- 1 Cor 11

Everything we can ever know about the Lord's supper will be learned from one of those passages. All five passages agree that the Lord used only one loaf of unleavened bread and only one cup containing grape juice. I will read only one to demonstrate my point:

### 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke **it** and said, "Take, eat; **this** is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same manner He also took **the cup** after supper, saying, "**This cup** is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

You will notice the Lord said, "This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The words, "This do," constitute a command. The church is being commanded to follow the Lord's example. Since the Lord used only one cup and since the church is commanded to follow His example, the church must use only one cup.

The Good Hope Rd. Church of Christ uses only one loaf and one cup in communion as the Lord commanded. The other congregations in the area use a plurality of loaves as well as individual cups.

## **2) The Good Hope Rd. Church of Christ does not have Bible classes or Sunday school.**

The Bible actually gives rules for the church to go by in order to please God. One chapter, **1 Cor 14**, has the rules for all assemblies which the church conducts.

- In 1 Cor 14:23 – the rules state that everyone is to be assembled together into one place and they are to stay together in one place.
- In 1 Cor 14:29-37 – the rules state that the men only are to speak one at a time while the women remain silent. Even if the women have questions, they are instructed to wait till the services are over and ask their questions in private.

The Good Hope Rd. Church of Christ does not divide people into Bible classes with the teachers teaching simultaneously. There is no Bible authorization for this practice.

## **3) The Good Hope Rd. Church of Christ does not have women speaking in the assemblies of the church.**

As we noticed just a moment ago, the Bible gives rules for all church assemblies. One of the rules given is that women must remain silent in all church conducted assemblies. Let me read it to you:

### **1 Corinthians 14:34-35**

34 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.

35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

To underscore the importance of this rule the apostle writes the following:

### **1 Corinthians 14:37**

37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

Women remaining silent in church assemblies is a command of the Lord. This is serious business. Other churches calling themselves "Churches of Christ" do not always follow the rule. Some allow women to speak out and make announcements. In one case, a woman spoke out to correct her husband while he was preaching. (He had called out the wrong chapter number and she spoke up to correct him.)

Now it is either a shame for women to speak in church assemblies or it is not a shame – one way or the other. According to the scripture, it is a shame.

## **SUMMARY**

There are other differences which exist, but these are the major differences between the Good Hope Rd. Church of Christ and other churches which call themselves "Church of Christ."

The Good Hope Rd. Church believes in the grace and mercy of God, but we also believe that God's grace and mercy should not be used as an excuse to willfully do as we wish while ignoring His commands.

### **Romans 6:1-2**

- 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?
- 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

The apostle Peter instructed Christians not to use their liberties as a cloak for doing wrong (1 Pet 2:16).

If a congregation claims to be the Church of Christ, then let that congregation obey every command (no matter how small) which the Lord gave the church. Do not let the church sit in judgment of God's holy word deciding which commands are worthy to be kept and which ones are not important.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. If you would like to speak with someone from the congregation in person, you may call **405-567-0575** or you may leave your name and number at the sound of the tone and one of our brethren will be glad to call you back. We also invite you to visit our web site [www.WillOfTheLord.com](http://www.WillOfTheLord.com). There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.