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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is this: **What does the Bible say about "organized religion"?**

When I invite people to the services of the church, occasionally someone will tell me, "*Oh ... I don't attend church services. I'm opposed to organized religions.*"

Now ... I must confess ... I'm scratching my head wondering exactly what that means.

## **FIRST: Does this mean religion should be disorganized?**

God is depicted in the scriptures as being a God of order. His creation is a creation of order.

- God has established certain laws in the creation and certain men and women (we call them scientists) spend their entire lives studying those laws. The constant law and order found in creation allows scientists to make useful and life-saving inventions.
- The constant law and order found in creation allows other scientists to make helpful predictions about the weather and warn people of approaching weather that could prove deadly.
- Other men and women (we call them doctors) spend their entire lives studying the laws of biology and medicine. The constant law and order found in creation allows doctors to prescribe medicine and surgery that can save lives.

The scriptures also reveal that God is a God of order in religious matters. He has outlined exactly how worship should be conducted and He expects this order to be followed when people worship Him.

### **1 Corinthians 14:40**

40 Let all things be done decently and **in order**.

If you will take the time to read the entire fourteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, you will see that regulations were given for an orderly worship service. Listen to verse 37:

**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.

Men and women are not given the privilege of devising their own forms of worship. God spoke about worship. God explained how to have a worship service – it was to be done decently and "in order" and if the instructions in 1 Cor. 14 are not followed, God will not accept the worship.

A person who substitutes some other worship – besides what God has outlined in 1 Cor. 14 – is not a *sincere* believer in God. They may believe in God, but they are not sincere, humble and submissive to the divine will of God.

God does not want disorganized worship.

**SECOND: When someone says, "I don't believe in 'organized religion,'" are they referring to denominations organized and founded by men?**

If this is what is meant, then I would agree. I do not believe in nor support religious organizations which have been organized and founded by uninspired men. Jesus asked this important question:

**Matthew 21:25**

25 The baptism of John — where was it from? From heaven or from men?" ...

Here are the only two possible sources for religious beliefs and religious organizations – heaven or men. In other words, either God or uninspired men organized all churches and all religious practices.

- ***Who established the Islam religion?*** God in heaven or an uninspired man? If God established it, then everyone should become a Muslim. But if an uninspired man established this religion, no one should be a member of it.

This religion was established by Mohamed. Mohamed was an uninspired man. He had no right to establish this religion.

- ***Who established the Catholic Church?*** God in heaven or uninspired men? If God established it, then everyone should become a Catholic. But if uninspired men established this church, no one should be a member of it. This religion evolved thru the centuries as men gradually departed from the divine pattern found in the pages of scriptures. The Catholic Church of today does not even remotely resemble the church established by the Lord Jesus Christ.

No other denomination is any better than the ones we have already mentioned. Each denomination was started by uninspired men. Jesus said:

**Matthew 15:13**

13 ... "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

This means every religious organization and practice which God did not ordain in the scriptures will eventually be punished by God Himself.

This behooves each and every one of us to examine the religion we are in and honestly ask the question: ***Was my church started by God or by uninspired men?*** If it was started by uninspired men or if it evolved into an organization which does things not taught in the pages of divine scripture, it is a human religion not started by God and will eventually be punished by God.

I encourage you to examine your religion carefully. The church of Christ was started by the Lord Jesus Himself (Mt. 16:18). It is an "organized religion" which was started and organized by heaven – not uninspired men. If you would like more information about the "church of Christ" please visit our worship services or contact us at the phone numbers mentioned at the beginning of this message.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website [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***.