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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: Are you a "hyphenated Christian"?

A hyphenated Christian is someone claiming to be a certain kind of Christian. For example, there are people today who claim to be a certain kind of American. There are people who claim to be:

- Mexican-Americans
- African-Americans
- Native-Americans – and so forth

In the same way, there are people today claiming to be a certain kind of Christian. There are people who claim to be:

- Baptist-Christians
- Methodist-Christians
- Pentecostal-Holiness-Christians
- Mormon-Christians
- Jehovah's Witness-Christians

What does God think about this? Does He approve?

The only way we know what God approves of is by what He tells us (1 Cor 2:11). The only way God speaks to mankind today is thru the written scriptures (2 Tim 3:16-17). He does not communicate by any other method – period. What do the written scriptures say about hyphenated Christians?

## **1 Corinthians 1:10-13**

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

11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.

12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

In other words, God tells us here (plainly) that He does not approve of division. He does not approve of hyphenated Christians.

Since it is wrong to be a hyphenated Christian, we better stop being hyphenated. We better stop dividing ourselves. My friend, why not be just a Christian and nothing more? All of the apostles and all of the disciples in the NT were just Christians.

**Acts 26:28**

28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

Agrippa was not almost persuaded to be anything except a plain old Christian – nothing more – nothing hyphenated. Friend, won't you "come out from among" the other hyphenated Christians (2 Cor. 6:17) and "be separate"? If you will:

- Believe that Jesus is the Son of God
- Repent of your sins
- Confess Christ with your mouth
- And be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)

You will be just a Christian. Christ will add you to His church (Acts 2:47). You can then "continue in the doctrine of the apostles" (Acts 2:42) and assemble with the Lord's pure, unhyphenated people for worship (Heb. 10:25). Remember:

**Psalms 127:1**

1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; ...

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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