

Questions about the church of Christ
1 Peter 3:15
By Russell Earl

Thesis: Tonight we will be answering some common questions about the church of Christ.

- Intro:
1. There are many questions that people have about the church of Christ.
 2. In the coming lessons we will look at some that have been brought forward.
 3. Tonight, we will begin with two frequently asked questions.

I. Didn't Alexander Campbell start the church of Christ?

- A. You can't start something that is already in existence or that you didn't pay for.
1. Prophecies from Isaiah, Daniel, Joel & Matthew tell us of the church coming and it appears in **Acts 2:14-16**.
 2. Christ purchased the church with His blood, no one else paid for the only church found in the Bible (**Acts 20:28**).
 3. The church that copies what is found in the N.T. is the church of the N.T. the church which Christ built (**Mt 16:15-18**).
- B. The role of Alexander Campbell.
1. Campbell was one of several who tried to restore the church to how it is found in the N.T. (**Acts 2:42**).
 2. He wasn't a starter, he was a restorer. Some confuse Campbell as being the starter because he was restoring something that so few followed-the scriptures (**Eph 4:4-6**).
- C. If a teaching began with Campbell...
1. If it began with man-then it is not in the Bible.
 2. Another challenge? If we teach something that BEGAN with Campbell, then point it out, because all are to teach as what (**Ezk 3:27, 1 Pt 4:11**).

II. Is the church of Christ a Cult?

- A. Defining a "Cult" (**Acts 17:22-23**)
1. a small religious group that is not part of a larger and more accepted religion and that has beliefs regarded by many people as **extreme or dangerous** (*Webster's dictionary*)
- B. Comparison of definition to church of Christ (**Mt 15:10-14**).
- notice what Christ says about such people – **slides after verses**
1. Because a group is "not part of a larger and more accepted religion" does that mean they are a "cult"? It seems interesting that when teach you're not a denomination then you are an outcast – a cult.
- C. Comparison of definition to denominations
1. The beliefs of the various denominations could be extreme to some (Baptist preacher said "***we can do various works with them but I couldn't worship with them***").
 2. Even within the denominational world it seems there are those groups who beliefs may be "*regarded by many people as extreme or dangerous.*" (**Mt 15:8**).

III. What do these questions reveal?

A. Campbell & the church's beginning

1. Because denominations have men who began their groups some want to assign Campbell as the person who began the church of Christ.

B. Misapplying the term "cult".

1. A cult was what we saw when people believed they would follow a comet into the sky, or drink a "special drink" that would take them to another world.
2. A cult isn't always a group that believes or teaches differently from what you or others may be used to or believe as what is right.

Application & Conclusion:

1. The answers to our questions are not complicated. They often come from simple misunderstandings.
2. However, sometimes these questions are driven by emotion.
3. **1 Peter 3:15**
4. Full Invitation