

Jesus Is The Answer Bible Study Course

(Advanced 1)



Lesson 12

WHY SO MANY DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS?

Why is there so much confusion about religion? Why do we have all of these different denominations? Why are churches teaching different doctrines, but all claiming to be guided by the same Bible?

Directions: Read the Bible texts at the end of each statement, then circle TRUE or FALSE, or FILL IN THE BLANKS. **PRAY FIRST!**

1. According to the Bible, how many denominations or faiths should there be? _____
(Ephesians 4:4-6; Jude 1:3; John 10:16)
2. Did Jesus build His church upon Peter or upon Himself? _____ Peter _____ Himself (Matthew 16:13-18; I Peter 2:6-8)
3. The division of the Christian church caught the early Christians by surprise; with no warning.
(II Thessalonians 2:3-5; I Timothy 4:1; II Timothy 4:3-4; Acts 20:28-30) **TRUE-FALSE**
4. When the Roman Emperor Constantine, who worshiped the sun-god, joined the Christian church to get the support of the Christian community, it was as if another lord entered. **TRUE-FALSE**

Note: The Romans worshiped the sun-god. They believed that the Emperors were the incarnation of the sun. So there was what was called “Emperor Worship” (*Church History in Plain Language*, Bruce Shelley, 161-162). According to Edward Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, ch. 20, “The sun was universally celebrated as the invincible guide and protector of Constantine.” Constantine’s title was “Pontifex Maximus,” which means the high priest of sun worship (Shelley, 108).

5. In an attempt to replace God’s holy Sabbath day of worship (Saturday) with the pagan sun-god’s day of worship (Sunday), Constantine passed laws forbidding Christians to worship on Saturday, and demanding them to rest/worship on Sunday. **TRUE-FALSE**

Note: Constantine passed a law in 321 AD, which reads: “On the Venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest; and let all workshops be closed” (*Hist. of the Chr. Ch.*, vol. III, Philip Schaff, 380). In 364 AD at the Council of Laodicea, this law was passed: “Christians shall not Judaize (proselytize) and be idle on Saturday but shall work on that day; but the Lord’s day they shall especially honor, and, as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day. If, however, they be found Judaizing, they shall be shut out from Christ.” (Kenneth A. Strand, *The Sabbath in Scripture and History*, p. 329). Constantine tried to Christianize Sunday by referring to it as the Lord’s day.

6. Although Pagan Rome (ruled by Emperors) has transitioned to Papal Rome (ruled by Popes), the Roman Catholic Church continues the practice of Christianizing its pagan worship system, including worshiping on Sunday in honor of the sun-god, but saying publicly it's in honor of Jesus' resurrection; and claiming that Jesus gave them the authority to do it. **TRUE-FALSE**

Note: This quotation of questions and answers is from *The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, by Rev. Peter Geiermann C.S.S.R., p. 50. "Q. What is the Third Commandment? A. The Third Commandment is: Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. Q. Which is the Sabbath day? A. Saturday is the Sabbath day. Q. Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? A. We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday. Q. Why did the Catholic Church substitute Sunday for Saturday? A. The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday, because Christ rose from the dead on a Sunday, and the Holy Ghost descended upon the Apostles on a Sunday. Q. By what authority did the Church substitute Sunday for Saturday? A. The Church substituted Sunday for Saturday by the plentitude of that divine power which Jesus Christ bestowed upon her. Q. What does the Third Commandment command? A. The Third Commandment commands us to sanctify Sunday as the Lord's Day."

7. During the Dark Ages (A.D 538-1798) about 50 million Christians were slaughtered by the Roman Catholic Church. Men rose up in protest of the false teachings of the Church. These men were part of the Protestant Reformation; and each one of them re-established portions of Bible truth that had been rejected by the Roman Catholic Church —John Wycliffe- translated the Bible into the English language, Jan Huss and Jerome- questioned the infallibility of the Pope, Martin Luther- taught righteousness by faith (Lutherans), John and Charles Wesley- taught conversion followed by sanctification (Methodists), John Calvin- taught salvation by God's grace (Presbyterians), Roger Williams- taught baptism by immersion (Baptists), etc. Different denominations came into existence because these groups refused to embrace additional Bible truth from each other. (*What I Like About...*, George Vandeman; *Church History in Plain Language*, Bruce L. Shelley, pp. 319-326) **TRUE-FALSE**

8. Truth is progressive. After being in spiritual darkness for 1260 years, God did not reveal all of the truth at one time to one group. But His intention was that all of the groups would accept all of the truths revealed so there would have been one united church; instead of many different denominations as we have today. (Proverbs 4:18) **TRUE-FALSE**