

What Is A Sound Church?

The Language of Ashdod and
Attempting To Have Fellowship
With An Unsound Church

Previously

- ▶ What is a scripturally sound church?
- ▶ What is the organization of a sound church?
- ▶ What is the work of a sound church?
- ▶ What is worship in a sound church?
- ▶ What is the name and membership of a sound church?
- ▶ Answering departures from sound doctrine (Part One)

Today

- ▶ Institutionalizing Christianity
- ▶ The Language of Ashdod and Attempting to Have Fellowship with an Unsound Church

The Rules For This Study

- ▶ Jesus has not changed His will for the church
 - Heb. 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."
- ▶ We will follow the pattern He authorized
 - 2Tim. 1:13 - "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."
- ▶ We will not consider changing His plan
 - 1Cor. 4:6 - "That you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written."

The Language Of Ashdod

- ▶ Neh. 13:23-24 - "In those days I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. 24 And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people."

The Language Of Ashdod

- ▶ Effects of the language of Ashdod on the children of Israel:
 - Separated Israelite children from their true heritage (Deut. 6:1-15)
 - Prevented proper teaching of the Law of Moses (couldn't read it)
 - Prevented proper hearing of the Law of Moses (couldn't understand it)
 - God's will was gradually replaced by idolatry.

The Language Of Ashdod

- ▶ Language of Ashdod among digressives today:
 - Pulpit minister, youth minister, music minister, worship leaders, retreats, fellowshiping, bus ministry, junior worship, singles ministry...
 - "My church, our church" (It's the Lord's church!)
 - Contemporary speech translations of the Bible
 - Casual speech in worship, prayers, songs

The Language Of Ashdod

- ▶ What will be the effect of digressives speaking in the language of Ashdod?
 - Children will grow up not knowing what a sound church is.
 - They will not hear the word of God taught in its purity and majesty.
 - They will not recognize it when they do hear it.
 - God's sound doctrine is gradually replaced by the teachings of denominational churches of Christ.

Attempting To Have Fellowship With An Unsound Church

- ▶ **What is the moral condition of an unsound church?**
- ▶ Ephesus was practicing most of the doctrine of Christ; however, they had left their first love, even though they were addressed as a church - Rev. 2:1-4
- ▶ Jesus told them to return to the original faith and repent, or He would no longer recognize them - Rev. 2:5

Attempting To Have Fellowship With An Unsound Church

- ▶ **What is the moral condition of an unsound church?**
- ▶ Pergamos was a dedicated group of Christians standing fast against opposition; however, they were having fellowship with brethren involved in two religious errors - Rev. 2:12-15
- ▶ Jesus told them to repent or He would stand against them - Rev. 2:16

Attempting To Have Fellowship With An Unsound Church

- ▶ **What is the moral condition of an unsound church?**
- ▶ Thyatira was a loving and active congregation; however, they were in fellowship with one false teacher - Rev. 2:18-19
- ▶ Jesus told them to repent or He would violently oppose them with suffering - Rev. 2:22

Attempting To Have Fellowship With An Unsound Church

- ▶ **What is the moral condition of an unsound church?**
- ▶ Sardis had a reputation as an active, strong congregation; however, Jesus said that spiritually they were dead - Rev. 3:1
- ▶ Jesus told them to repent and do good works or He would oppose them without warning - Rev. 3:3

Attempting To Have Fellowship With An Unsound Church

- ▶ **What is the moral condition of an unsound church?**
- ▶ Laodicea was serving the Lord indifferently and were materialistic; Jesus told them to repent or He would treat them with revulsion
- Rev. 3:14-19

Attempting To Have Fellowship With An Unsound Church

- ▶ **What is the moral condition of an unsound church?**
- ▶ In no case did Jesus allow them to remain in error in perpetuity.
- ▶ In every case, they were required to repent and cease the erring practice within a limited period of time, or fellowship would end.

Attempting To Have Fellowship With An Unsound Church

- ▶ Now if Jesus refused to permit these congregations to continue in fellowship with Him while practicing just one or two errors, then what makes contemporary erring churches of Christ think that He will remain in fellowship with them while they continue practicing unsound doctrine in the work, worship, and organization He ordained for His church?
- ▶ Furthermore, what breakdown in reasoning among professed members of sound churches permits them to assemble and worship with congregations with which Jesus has refused fellowship? Are they somehow wiser or more loving than the Lord?

Attempting To Have Fellowship With An Unsound Church

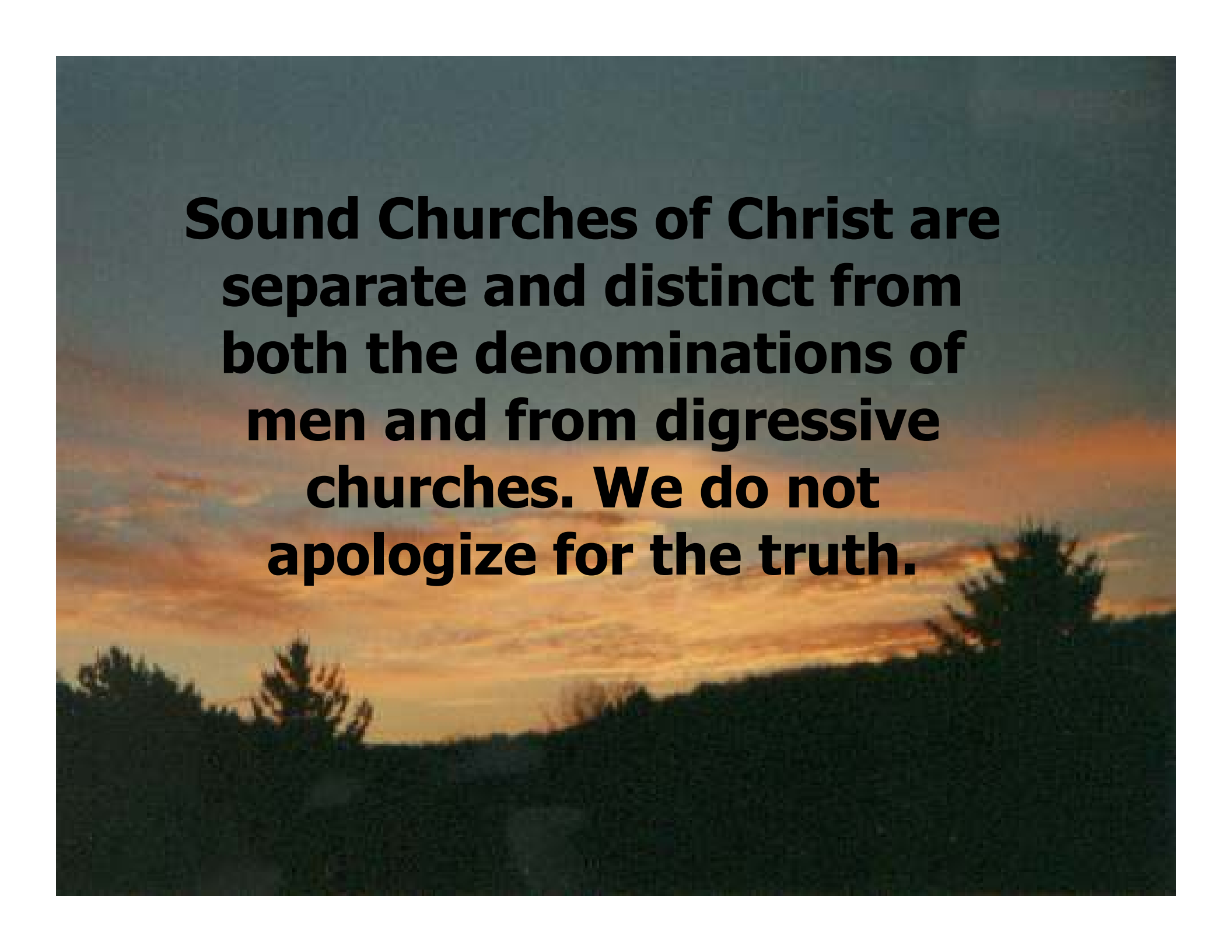
- ▶ Jesus cares whether a church is practicing sound doctrine.
- ▶ It is well past time that His followers care, too.
 - 2John 9-11 - "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds."

Attempting To Have Fellowship With An Unsound Church

- ▶ Eph. 5:6-11 - "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."

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**Sound Churches of Christ are
separate and distinct from
both the denominations of
men and from digressive
churches. We do not
apologize for the truth.**