

A CONVERSATION WITH A STRANGER

1 Pet. 3:15

SETTING: Our Church Property in Jerusalem

TIME: Monday Night

While working around in the church yard trying to clean it up and making repairs to the fence around the property, one of the Jewish neighbors came over to me and said _____

_____ Shalom, my name is Abraham White. _____

_____ I live across the street. What is your name?

_____ I told him that my name was Ralph Henley and that I was pleased to meet him. He then told me: "I've been watching your people since you moved into this building and came over to ask you a few questions?" I told him that I should be happy to answer and thus our conversation began. I was unable to convince him.

1. Why do you people come down here each Sunday and Wednesday nights?
2. Oh, I see, so you are a church, what denomination do you represent, (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant)?
3. What do you call this church?
 - A. Church of God - (1 & 2 Cor. 2: - 1 Tim. 3:5: - Gal. 1:13: - 1 Cor. 10:32: 1 Cor. 11:22: 1 Cor. 15:9)
 - B. Church of the First Born - (Heb. 12:23)
 - C. Churches of Christ - (Rom. 16:16)
 - D. Church of the Lord - (Acts 20:28)
 - E. Many times just the Church. (In asking where the church was in some town in the First Century no one would have said "which church?").
4. How did this church get started, who governs this church, and where is headquarters?
 - A. Relate the Old Testament Prophecies - Isa. 2: Micah 4: Daniel 2:
 - B. Christ is the head - (Col. 1: Eph. 1:21-23; Eph. 5:23.
 - C. Christ is the King - Headquarters is therefore in Heaven.

- (1) Explain how the Church is both Universal and Local.
- a. Local church government.
5. Well, that is sure interesting. What kind of Creed or Regulations do you have?
- A. Bible and it alone is sufficient - (1 Tim. 3:16-17)
- B. Creeds are not necessary and are divisive.
6. Well, What part do you play in this, Reverend?
- A. Psalms 111.9 - Reverend found only one time in Bible and refers to God. Do not wish to use such a reference to myself.
7. What would I need to do to be able to join this church?
- A. Impossibility to “Join” the Church of Christ. (God adds the saved) Acts 2:47.
- B. God’s Term of Entrance is: Hearing, Believing, Repenting, Confess, Baptism.
8. Which mode of baptism would you use, sprinkling, pouring, or immersion?
- A. The Greek word for baptize means to immerse. (Examples in the New Testament)
- B. Rantidzo - sprinkle; Keo - pour, Baptidzo - to immerse.
9. After I get into the church, what do I then call myself?
- A. Christian (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16)
10. Well, I understand that I will be a Christian, but what kind of Christian?
- A. Point out the conversions in the Book of Acts and show they were Christians only and that they were all added to the same Church.
- (1) Pentecostians.
- (2) Samaritans.
- (3) The Eunuch.
- (4) Saul of Tarsus.

- (5) Cornelius and his Household.
- (6) Lydia and her Household.
- (7) The Philippian Jailer and his Household.
- (8) The Corinthians.

- Note:
- 1. They all heard the same gospel.
 - 2. They all obeyed the same gospel.
 - 3. God added them to the Church.
 - 4. They became followers of Christ - Christians.

11. **WELL, I HAVE LEARNED A LOT I DIDN'T KNOW. TELL ME OF YOUR WORSHIP SERVICE.**

A. The New Testament provides for Five Items of Christian Worship.

- 1. Singing - without instrumental accompaniment.
 - a. Rom. 15:9; 1Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; James 5:13.
- 2. Praying
- 3. Teaching
- 4. Lord's Supper (A simple memorial supper - No miracle takes place)
- 5. Giving (Under the Law, the Jew gave a tenth but we must exceed such)

Note: Acts 20:7 - 1 Cor. 16:1-2 - Grammatical construction same.

12. **WOULD MEMBERSHIP IN THIS CHURCH MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE LOST?**

- A. Church membership is essential to salvation. (Eph. 5:23)
- B. However, even some church members are going to be lost.
 - 1. John 15:, 1 Cor. 10:12, Heb. 6, II Pet. 2:20-22, Matt. 13:41-42.

13. **THERE IS A GROUP MEETING UP THE STREET WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS AND THEY MEET FOR WORSHIP ON SATURDAY. CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS TO ME?**

- A. Yes, I know that group. They are called Seventh Day Adventist.
- B. They believe that the Sabbath part of the Law of Moses (Ten Commandments) is still binding.
 - 1. But, plain passages prove otherwise: Heb. 1:1-2, Rom. 7:4, Col. 2:14-18.
 - 2. The Bible teaches three Laws: Patriarchal, Mosaical, Christian.

14. **AS YOU KNOW, CHRISTIANITY IS DIVIDED INTO THREE MAIN GROUPS HERE IN ISRAEL: EASTERN ORTHODOX, ROMAN CATHOLIC, AND PROTESTANT. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS?**

- A. Point out the Historical Evolution which brought about the situation.
- B. Then show that this is in direct conflict with the teaching of the New Testament.
 - 1. Christ prayed for Unity - Paul rebuked the Corinthians.

15. **I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, I AM A TEACHER AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY AND I HAVE BEEN READING RECENTLY ABOUT AMERICAN CHURCH HISTORY. WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO EXPLAIN TO ME HOW ALL YOUR HUNDREDS OF CHURCHES STARTED IN AMERICA?**

- A. To adequately answer this question would take months. I'll give an outline.
- B. We have already talked about the Three Main Divisions of Christendom.
 - 1. This division was transferred to America by the Colonists.

Orthodox Roman Catholic 1052
(More specifically in Eleventh Century)

Groups Migrating From Europe	Lutheran	1517
	Anglican	1532 (Episcopal in America)
	Presbyterian	1560 (Scotland)
	Baptist	1607
	Methodist	1739
Indigenous American Groups	Mormon	1830 (Joseph Smith)
	Adventist	1844 William Miller, Ellen G. White)
	Christian Science	1876
	Jehovah's Witnesses	1874 Russell 1914 Rutherford
	Nazarene	1919
	Pentecostal Groups	(Mostly since World War II)

15. WHERE DOES YOUR GROUP FIT INTO THIS CONFUSION AND CHAOS OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION?

Advocate that Everyone be a Christian - A Christian Only - A Faithful Christian - A Member of the One Church of Our Lord.

A. The need for Establish - not Reformation.

16. WHY HAVE YOU WAITED SO LONG TO COME BACK TO JERUSALEM?