

These men will not necessarily introduce a false doctrine into the church. To the contrary, they just want to see which way the prevailing wind of the congregational thinking is going so they can “blow” along with it (and “blow” they can). In other words, they can teach it just about any way you want it or don’t want it.

At this congregation we are determined to teach our members to abhor such spineless conduct (Gal. 1:10; Acts 20:27). We appreciate those who see and know that the conviction of a faithful Gospel preacher is not just “skin deep.”

—David P. Brown
Spring, TX

THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Welcome back...

Delbert Goins placed membership Wednesday night. He was a member at Northpoint until he began preaching for an area congregation about two years ago. Welcome back!

Let us pray for...

Tim Smith’s family – Tim passed to his reward early Saturday morning

Alice Haddon – fighting cancer (Sheri’s friend)

Ann Henderson – fighting cancer (Sheri’s aunt)

Lester Kamp – fighting prostate cancer

Mike Mallett – fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)

Judy Reid – continued recovery auto accident (sister in MS, planning to move here)

Llewelyn Reid – Judy’s husband (that he will be restored)

Jeffrey Reid – Judy’s son, with whom Dub hopes to be studying

Brian Ritter – fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)

Don Smith – faithful brother in Ohio prison who is teaching fellow inmates daily

Liam Zies – newborn (Tonya’s friend)

Joshua Aidoo – Gospel preacher in Ghana we support

Samuel Bagsangi – Gospel preacher in Philippines we support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	16
Sunday AM Worship	16
Sunday PM Worship	16
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	12
Contribution	\$826.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$945.75

Internet Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45–10:50 a.m. and 1:12–1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, www.northpointcoc.com.

Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Dub McClish



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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Denominationalism vs. the Church

Thoughtful Bible students realize that denominational “churchianity” bears no resemblance to New Testament Christianity. The latter is not only fundamentally **undenominational**; it is **anti-denominational**. Men have so long lived with the abnormality of denominationalism that they almost universally accept it as “normal” (i.e., *Scriptural*, for those who may still bother with such trivialities).

By definition, a denomination is a religious body having peculiarities that distinguish it from the church revealed in the Bible. A denomination cannot exist without believing, doing, or preaching things not found in God’s Word. While all denominations teach and/or practice some things the Bible teaches, the things they teach and practice that are **not in the Bible** are what make them denominations, of which the Bible knows nothing.

Consider some distinctions between denominational and Scriptural concepts of the church:

- Denominations glory in their **many** churches/bodies. They are known to thank God for their diversity. Jesus built **one** church (Mat. 16:18), which is His “**one** body” (Eph. 1:22–23; 4:4).
- Denominations laud their **diversity** of doctrines, practices, and faiths. The Bible demands adherence to the **singular** “doctrine of Christ” (1 John 9–10; cf. Acts 2:42), and insists that there is **only one** faith (Eph. 4:5; Jude 3) and **one Gospel**, to which all must conform (1 Cor. 1:10; Gal. 1:6–9).
- Denominations were **founded by a man or men**. Biblical Christianity was **founded by Jesus Christ** upon the fact that He is the Son of God (Mat. 16:16–18; 1 Cor. 3:11).
- Denominations are subject to **human authorities** (a headquarters, president, board, conference, pope, council, etc.). **Jesus is the sole head** of His church (Eph. 1:22–23; Col. 1:18), and He governs it from Heaven through His New Testament (Heb. 1:1–2; 8:6–13; 9:15–17). Each congregation is autonomous under its own elders/bishops/pastors (Acts 20:28).

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Sunday

Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM

Wednesday

B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

- Denominations admit that sinners can be saved **apart from** them. By implication, therefore, it is not necessary to be a member of any of them. Not so of the church of Christ. The Bible teaches that when one is saved, the Lord **adds him to His church**, and that one **must be in it** in order to go to Heaven (Acts 2:47; 20:28; 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 5:23–27).
- Denominations have varied “plans of salvation,” most of which are summed up in the mythical, humanly-originated “sinner’s prayer” involving a mere confessed belief in Jesus. His church preaches what He commanded his followers to preach about salvation, including a confessed faith in Christ, repentance of sins, and immersion in water in order to be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- Denominations worship according to **human doctrines and preferences**, rendering their worship vain (Mat. 15:9). Jesus’ church worships in “spirit [i.e., with one’s spirit involved] and truth [i.e., as Jesus authorizes in His Word]” (John 4:23–24; Col. 3:17).

Denominationalism rests upon the words, whims, wishes, and wills of men, not upon the Word and Will of the Son of God. God will uproot it (Mat. 15:13).

– Dub McClish
Denton, TX

The HEATHEN Are Us!

Ungodliness in the individual is the wellspring of all societal ills and the progenitor of all that is evil among man. Our civilization arose upon the fundamental belief that the rights we enjoy are tempered by responsibilities to family, community, and state. It is this sense of “ought,” derived from our religious past, that produces what is orderly, right, and harmonious in American society. Antithetical to our roots—libertarianism, hedonism, anarchism, and Humanism, which exalt self above all (including God) are the causes of today’s moral decay, and Allan Bloom said [almost 3 decades ago, DM] that degenerate families are responsible for those traits:

Attending church or synagogue, praying at the table, were a way of life, inseparable from the moral education that was supposed to be the family’s special responsibility in this democracy. Actually, the moral teaching was the religious teaching.... The things one was supposed to do, the sense that the world supported them and punished disobedience, were all incarnated in the Biblical stories. The loss of the gripping inner life, vouchsafed [to] those who were nurtured by the Bible, must be primarily attributed not to our schools or political life, but to the family, which, with all its rights to privacy, has proved unable to maintain any content of its own. The dreariness of the family’s spiritual landscape passes belief. ...The delicate fabric of the civilization into which successive generations are woven has unraveled, and children are raised, not educated (*The Closing of The American Mind*. 1987, Simon & Schuster, NY, pp. 56–57).

A sense of right moral conduct, inherent in the Bible and believed and taught in the homes of the earliest settlers in the North American Colonies, was the guiding philosophy of the nation’s founders. That sense of moral right, upon which the endurance and stability of any nation depends, has been lost in America because the home has failed. Prodded by religious skepticism and the anti-biblical religion of Secular Humanism, we have loosed from the mooring of absolute moral right and set ourselves adrift upon the dark and uncertain sea of human reason. Abandoning their God-ordained responsibilities as society’s basic institutions, the home and the state have formed an unholy alliance and created a generation that perpetuates a morally deviant and bankrupt society.

The only way this can be rectified is for the home to once again assume its God-given place as the primary nurturer and the foundation upon which all society stands. The state has destroyed its own moral foundation by lifting familial, benevolent, and religious obligations from the family and appropriating those to itself under the Human Secularist guise of “social legislation.”

The state cannot replace the family any more than the superstructure of a building can replace its foundation. The ills of society will be rectified only if (and when) fathers and mothers once again assume their responsibilities before God and bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). But this will involve reclaiming their children from a paternalistic government, which dangles the god of Secular Humanism before their eyes, and promises them freedom while shackling them in heathen chains of moral depravity.

– Jerry C. Brewer
Elk City, OK

CHAMELEONS

A chameleon is a lizard. It is a cold-blooded animal. It is primarily known for its ability to change its color so it can blend into its surroundings. Being a predator, the lizard does not want its wary prey to see it for what it is. Hence, in color the chameleon is a *relativist*, i.e., its surroundings determine its color (*Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*).

The dictionary gives this definition for the word *chameleon*: “a fickle or changeable person or thing.” *Fickle* is defined by Webster to be: “deceitful, inconstant...marked by lack of steadfastness, constancy, or stability; given to erratic changeableness.” It is this second definition that interests us in this article.

It simply comes down to this: **We do not want any “chameleon preachers.”** By this we do not mean what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:22. The changing Paul says he did in this passage has **nothing** to do with altering the Truth of the Gospel to fit the ways of men (Gal. 1:10).

There are also certain preachers who will preach to a congregation the Truth **when they find out that such is the desire of the elders and/or people.** However, in another congregation where “all the counsel of God” is **not accepted, they will preach only that which is acceptable. They are preachers in lizard clothes.**