

## **Non-Denominational Christianity: *Is Unity Possible?***

- Introduction:**
1. An often-repeated phrase in religious circles is “Attend the church of your choice.”
  2. But do you think such advice is good advice?
  3. Do you think that the present state of religion is what God had in mind when he planned the church?
  4. Do you think that God really wants us divided up into competing churches, competing for the souls of men, teaching different doctrines, wearing different names, and following different creeds?
  5. If not, what does the Lord desire, and how do we achieve it?

### **I. The Lord’s Desire Concerning the Church**

- A. (John 17:20-21) Jesus prayed for unity and oneness.
- B. (1 Corinthians 1:10) Paul pleaded for no division.
- C. (1 Corinthians 12:25) No division in the body.
- D. (Ephesians 4:4-6) Oneness.

### **II. How Do We Achieve the Lord’s Desire Today?**

- A. Can we who live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century practice what the Lord had in mind?
- B. Yes, but it will require courage.
  1. Courage to shed the traditions of our fathers.
  2. Courage to leave behind denominational bodies, which by their very nature are divisive.
  3. Courage to love and stand for the truth even above the desires and pressures from our own families.
- C. What if we practiced Christianity from an “Island Approach?”
- D. Ills. of a “Time Machine.”
- E. Ills. of a Baseball Rule book.
- F. Can a person on a remote island become a member of the church you read about in the Bible without being a part of some man-made denominational body?
- G. If so, can someone living in this community do the same?

- Conclusion:**
1. Is the church of which you’re a member the specific spiritual body that the Lord had in mind when he planned the church?
  2. It was not, nor never will be the Lord’s desire to have a multiplicity of churches teaching different doctrines, following different creeds, and divided by different names.
  3. We’re not trying to be another “brand name” of Christianity.
  4. Our call is not to join our denomination, but to call all men everywhere to leave the divisiveness of denominationalism and simply be a member of the Lord’s church.