

**CREDO CAFE - Different Denominations – May 2008**



**RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

**Website**

[List of Denominations - Wikipedia](#)

"I was walking across a bridge one day, and I saw a man standing on the edge, about to jump off. so i ran over and said "Stop! don't do it!" "Why shouldn't I?" he said. I said, "Well, there's so much to live for!" He said, "Like what?" I said, "Well...are you religious or atheist?" He said, "Religious." I said, "Me too! Are you christian or buddhist?" He said, "Christian." I said, "Me too! Are you catholic or protestant?" He said, "Protestant." I said, "Me too! Are you episcopalian or baptist?" He said, "Baptist!" I said, "Wow! Me too! Are you baptist church of god or baptist church of the lord?" He said, "Baptist church of god!" I said, "Me too! Are you original baptist church of god, or are you reformed baptist church of god?" He said, "Reformed baptist church of god!" I said, "Me too! Are you reformed baptist church of god, reformation of 1879, or reformed baptist church of god, reformation of 1915?" He said, "Reformed baptist church of god, reformation of 1915!" I said, "Die, heretic scum", and pushed him off." - Emo Phillips

Five Good things about the fact that there are lots of different denominations:

- Diversity
- Closer to me (cultural accessible)
- Choice
- Reflects God's nature (all in part, none in whole)
- Acts as a corrective (aid to discovering truth – rather than one group dictating truth)

Examples of Worship from around the world (Youtube - click on the title to go to the link)

- **Pentecostal Worship**
- **Brazilian Methodists**
- **Salvation Army - Puerto Rico**
- **Westminster Cathedral Choir**
- **Catholic Mass - Korea**

Five Bad things about the fact that there are lots of different denominations:

- Arguments / Division / Persecution / Charges of Heresy
- Confusing to non-believers
- Allows strong individuals to dominate a smaller group
- We're 'Better together' – Can achieve more
- It belittles 'Truth' (either truth is swept aside for the sake of 'unity' or petty distinctions are elevated to eternal 'truths' – either way 'true truth' is the loser.

An example - David Koresh (August 17, 1959 – April 19, 1993) was the leader of a Branch Davidian religious sect, believing himself to be the final prophet. A 1993 raid by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and subsequent siege by the FBI ended with the burning of the Branch Davidian ranch. Koresh, 53 adults and 21 children died in the fire. He was born Vernon Wayne Howell in Houston, Texas, to a 14-year-old single mother, Bonnie Sue Clark. His father was a 20-year-old carpenter. Koresh described his early childhood as lonely...a poor student diagnosed with dyslexia, Koresh dropped out of high school. Due to his poor study skills, he was nicknamed "Mister Retardo" by his classmates. By the age of 12, he had memorized the entire New Testament.

Breakout 2 Tradition or Truth?

What do we mean when we accept another denomination as 'Christian'?

Which parts of our denomination are 'essential' and which parts are tradition?

## **Bible Study:**

### **Matthew 7 and 1 John 4**