

Danger...unseen changes ...

Cancer; Heart disease

Social status ...*affect* ⇒ ... Religious views

Mt 19:23; Mk 4:19; 1Co 1:26; Jam 2:5

***“Emergence of the Church of Christ
Denomination”* by David Harrel (orig. 1962)**

“Sect” ... ⇒ ... ⇒ ... ⇒ ... “Denomination”

Social change ... ⇒ ... Religious change

Danger...unseen changes ...

“It takes at least one generation to make the change and at least one more generation to understand and admit the change” p16

“Emergence of the Church of Christ Denomination” by David Harrel (orig. 1962)

Q.: *Where are we??*

Characteristics of NT Christians

- Believe had “the truth” Gal 2:4-5; Jude 3
 - Will. to debate Ac 6:9; 15:2; 17:17; 18:28
 - Know. of truth emp. – 22 ltrs; 1Ti 3:14; 6:6,11,15,16; 5:7,21; 6:2; 2Tim 2:15-16
- Bel. in “the church” 1Jn 5:19; Eph 4:4-6
- Strict morally – 1Pt 4:3-4
- Fervent – Ac 2:42,44-46; 5:42; 8:4; 15:35
(to sociologist = “sect”)

“Using the **terminology of modern religious sociologists and historians**, the early nineteenth century religious movement led by Alexander Campbell & Barton Stone was a “**legalistic sect**” (Harrell, p9)

Note: Do not let such terms disturb you!

Sadd. (**Ac 5:17**), Phar. (**Ac 15:5**) ...

But also of the early church! **Ac 24:5,14; 28:22**

Characteristics of “Denomination” (*to sociologist*)

- **Less dogmatic**
- **Tolerant of other churches**
- **Generally accept moral standards of society**
- **Less active, fervent – more interested in world about them**

Q.: *Where are we??*

Changes in the churches of Christ

“sect” ... ⇒ ... “denomination” (H. p21-23)

1. Property Less to Property Owning
2. Economic Poverty to Economic Wealth
3. From Cultural Periphery to Cultural Center
4. From Refusing Unworthy Members to Receiving Them
5. From Unspecialized Ministers to Specialized
6. From Emphasis on Evangelism to Emphasis on Education

Q.: *Where are we??*

Changes in the churches of Christ

7. From Stressing the Next World to Stressing This World
8. Several other changes ...
 - From Noncooperation with other churches to Cooperation
 - From Fervor in worship to Restraint
 - From a High Degree of Congregational Participation to Delegation of Responsibility to a few.
9. From Persecution to Success And Dominance psychology.

Q.: *Where are we??*

Changes in the churches of Christ

“sect” ... ⇒ ... “denomination”

“To a professional, there is considerable evidence that such a sociological transition is **underway in the church of Christ today.**” 1962!

(p21)

Q.: *Where are we??*

NOTE: The mentality & conduct commended in Scripture is *NOT* accord with “corporate America” philosophy & training of their employees ... *Beware!* “sect” **X**

In the World, But Not of the World

“the world has hated them ... bec. they are **not of the world**...not ask you to take them out of the world, but ...

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth”

John 17:14-17

“do **not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Romans 12:2

Rev 2-5 five of seven churches
needed to “repent” - 10-40
years after estab.!

Easy to “drift away”...**Heb 2:1;**
Jer 6:16

“**stand firm and hold**” to the
apostolic **PATTERN!** **2Th 2:13;**
2Tim 1:13

