

Christian Theology

Distinctions Among Christians

October 25, 2009

The Non-Denominational Movement

- For many years, and especially since the Protestant Reformation began in the 1500s, many people have been *dissatisfied* with the existence of denominations in Christianity.
- During the history of the United States, Christian denominations have *multiplied* greatly.
- These divisions have focused on *theological* and *practical* differences.
- In the past few decades, more and more churches have begun to *label* themselves as “non-denominational.”
- The growth of this pseudo-movement is, in part, due to *marketing* techniques.
- Another reason for this trend is a desire for *inclusiveness*.
- There are, however, some problems with this approach:
 - Ministers may not have adequate *training*.
 - The people may not *agree* on or even *know* what they believe.
 - This trend may lead to a “*warm and fuzzy*” form of Christianity. (The technical term for this is *therapeutic* Christianity.)
 - Without specific, expected beliefs, a congregation may misinterpret (or even ignore) the *Bible* or orthodox *theology*.
- Naturally, these are *challenges* for any denomination, as well.

For discussion:

- How is Woodruff Place Baptist Church similar to a non-denominational church?
- How is it different?
- Is it important to belong to a specific denomination (or set of beliefs)? Why or why not?