

have to teach them the difference, because they really do not see, or know there is one.

Have you been directly, or indirectly taught to treat members of the Church differently because of their denomination, perceived value, or any other reason? Do you know of any denomination or church that directly or indirectly teaches its members to remain separate from other denominations, churches, or members for whatever reason? Do you know of any denomination or church that puts a higher value on the way it does things than another denomination or church?

Separation thinking like this operates throughout the Body of Christ between and within denominations and churches. For example, we may look and treat the older members as though they are not as useful as the younger ones. We may also treat the younger members as though they do not have as much value and purpose as the older ones. It is possible to find newer churches that believe the older ones need to be replaced, or closed. You may find older and/or larger denominations that believe their size, or longevity makes their way of doing ministry "the way".

The great thing about God is that He looks at the heart and everyone who follows Him is just as useful and valuable as the next one. Every believer can operate in and display heavenly power, because the power is from God and not us. We just have to be willing to follow the Word of God instead of the words of men and women.

God is the same. He treats every believer the same, according to His Word. A child will treat the denominations of money the same because they do not see a difference. God treats every church denomination the same because He does not look at their differences. However, every denomination probably sees God differently from who, what and how He really is. I do understand that the different cultures and customs that people come from may also influence

how they view God, the Bible and the Church. So, just think about how a person influenced by their culture, customs and denomination may act. All of these different influences may cause us to interpret the Scriptures differently, which means that we may apply them to our lives differently.

Although we all may say we believe in and serve the same God, the specific makeup of our denominations prove that we are separate and definitely not equal in how we act out that belief. In reading the definitions of denomination I gave earlier, especially number ***four***, it is evident to me that others may feel the same.