

God Is...

In a 2014 Pew Research Religious Poll, 89% of Americans surveyed said they believe in God. This was down from 92% in 2007. Clearly, more and more Americans are becoming unbelievers.

GOD IS. There is evidence all around us in the universe that God is and that he does exist. There is evidence for a Designer behind the intricate and complex design found in our human bodies, the plant kingdom, the animal kingdom, and our earth and solar system. What is made around us shows a Maker (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20; Hebrews 3:4).

God not only is in existence, but he is many things in person. **GOD IS LIVING** and not dead (Hebrews 3:12; 4:13; 9:14; 10:31; 12:22). **GOD IS LIGHT** and there is no darkness (sin) in him (1 John 1:5). **GOD IS LOVE** and he sent and sacrificed his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, for our sins (1 John 4:8, 16). **GOD IS LORD** of all because he made us all (Revelation 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7; 21:22).

Now, are you still one of those Americans who does not believe in God? Let me encourage you to face the facts and the truth about God, and come to know him personally before you have to face him in the judgment day unprepared.
- Chris Reeves

Up-Coming Events

- We are studying the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians in December. We have great Bible classes. Come check them out!
- Next Sunday's Sermons: He Who Regards the Clouds (AM) and Christmas: Where Will You Be Next Sunday? (PM)

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
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Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

December 11, 2016



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Who Are We? — A People Different from Religions (Part 2)

In last week's bulletin, I answered the question, "Who are the Christians that make up the Warfield Blvd. church of Christ?" I examined how that we are four things with respect to the people of this world. We are a Christ-centered people, a peculiar people, a called-out people, and a Bible-believing people.

In this week's article, I want to answer the question, "Who are we with respect to other religions and churches?" We are many things that make us different from other churches in the area. We are not purposely trying to be different just for the sake of being different, but our desire to follow the truth of God's word in the Bible makes us different. We are trying to be just like the "churches of Christ" found in the New Testament (Romans 16:16). So, who are we?

We are **Eternally Purposed in Existence** (Ephesians 3:10-11). The church belonging to Christ that Jesus built (Matthew 16:18), existed always in God's mind: in purpose, in promise, in prophecy, in preparation, and in perfection. Man-made churches that were purposed long after Jesus built his church cannot make this claim.

We are **First-Century in Establishment** (Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4). The Lord's kingdom (or church) was established, Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost in A.D. 33. Prior to Pentecost, the Lord's kingdom was promised (Isaiah 2:1-4; Mat-

thew 3:1-2) and after Pentecost, it was in existence (Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9). Man-made churches established long after Pentecost in A.D. 33 cannot make this claim.

We are **God-Centered in Worship** (John 4:24). Read John 4:24 and know that we desire the right action ("worship"), the right object ("him," God), the right manner ("must worship"), the right attitude ("in spirit"), and the right authority ("in truth"). We sing without instruments (Ephesians 5:19), take the Lord's supper every Sunday (Ac.20:7), give a free-will offering every Sunday (1 Cor.16:1-2), pray, and study God's word (Ac.2:42). Man-made churches today who add to or take from this worship cannot make this claim.

We are **Evangelistic in Mission** (Luke 19:10). Like Jesus Christ, we want to seek and save the lost with the saving gospel (Romans 1:16). We focus on saving the lost and edifying the saved with the truth of God's word (1 Timothy 3:15). Man-made churches that spend a lot of time and money on fun and food and on social and recreational activities cannot make this claim.

We are **Non-Denominational in Character**. What is a church denomination? First, it is something larger than a "local church" (1 Corinthians 1:2) and smaller than the "universal church" (Ephesians 1:22-23). Second, it is divided from other churches. (Think of "denominations" of money: \$1, \$5, \$10, etc.) Third, it is something with a human designation not found in the scriptures like Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, Mennonite, Greek

Orthodox, etc. The New Testament church was neither Catholic (A.D. 606 onward), Protestant (A.D. 1500 onward), or Jewish (1500 B.C. onward). The New Testament church was not Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist. The New Testament church were "Christians" in name only (Acts 11:26). Man-made churches cannot claim to be non-denominational.

We are **Simple in Terms of Entrance**. What simple steps did people take on the day of Pentecost to become Christians and members of the Lord's church? They heard the gospel (Acts 2:14-36), believed it (Acts 2:37), repented of their sins, were baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38-41), and they confessed Jesus as Lord and Christ (Acts 2:32,36,41 with Romans 10:9-10). What did the Lord do? He added them to his church (Ac.2:47). Man-made churches today who add to and take from these five simple steps cannot make this claim.

We are **Necessary in Salvation** (Ephesians 5:23). All spiritual blessings are "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). To be in Christ, is to be in his body (Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 12:13). To be in Christ's body, is to be in his church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18,24), the body of saved (Ephesians 5:23). Therefore to receive spiritual blessings and salvation, we must be in Christ, his body, his church.

Why not come be with a group of Christians who are different? - *Chris Reeves*