

**D. S. WARNER'S BELIEFS CONCERNING
THE CHURCH OF GOD, WHAT IT IS AND IS NOT**

As Expressed in His Inspired Songs:

“We are coming, hallelujah! **We are COMING HOME TO GOD;
JESUS ONLY WE'RE BEHOLDING, WHO HAS WASHED US IN HIS BLOOD.**”

“We are only **at home in the bosom of God,**
On earth or in heaven above;
Ev'ry one who would enter must pass through the blood,
And reign in the kingdom of love.

“**We will enter no door that is opened by men**
Who promise a home for the soul;
For **IN CHRIST WE ABIDE IN THE CHURCH** that will stand
While ages eternally roll.

“I'm at home, blessed home, **I am safe in the bosom Divine;**
Oh, the home of the soul, Thy heaven of glory is mine.”

“I need to join no earth-begotten thing; The church that Jesus built is all I see,
And God Himself has truly set me in, And that's surely good enough for me.

“The blood of Christ has washed my garments white, His mighty truth has fully set me free,
His Spirit floods my happy soul with light, And that wondrous joy's enough for me.”

“Oh, what golden glory streaming! Purer light is coming fast;
Now **IN CHRIST we've found a freedom,** Which eternally shall last.”

“**What is the church but Christ alone? No other fold I need;**
I live in Him the living vine, His Word my only creed.”

“Are you of the holy remnant **Gathered to the King of Peace?**
Have you found a full atonement And abundance of His grace?
Yes, my soul has come to Zion On the high and holy way,
And I've seen the darkness flying Driven by the light of day

“Have you heard a voice from heaven, Calling in a solemn tone,
'Come, my people, from confusion [James 3:16], This is not your native home'?”

[Our native home is **GOD** (Psa. 90:1) – in Him there is **NO CONFUSION – NO DARKNESS AT ALL!** 1 John 1:5]

“Yes, I heard, and to my vision Zion's glory brightly shone;
Then I rose and fled the ruin, Taking not a Babel stone.”

– D. S. Warner

**Those who discover their “native home” become one in Christ and, in Christ, they leave all
confusion behind!**

As Expressed in Articles Published in *The Gospel Trumpet*:

Ruling Authority of the Holy Ghost

Notwithstanding the apostasy of the Romish church and her utter departure from the faith, because of the substitution of a man-made system of ecclesiasticism for the personal presence and authority of the Holy Ghost, Protestants have not profited (but in part) by her fall; they have very generally fallen into a like snare.

The Apostolic church fully recognized the personal presence and authority of the Holy Ghost. He was fully accepted as their teacher and guide. They fully embraced the words of Jesus: “when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth,” yea, “teach you all things,” even the “deep things” of God. Hence, we hear Peter saying unto Ananias: “Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?” (Acts 5:3.) The presence of the Divine Spirit was to them a certainty.

In Acts 13:2 we read, “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul, for the work whereunto I have called them.” Here the authority of the Holy Ghost is recognized. Thus, we see that the early church needed no man-made system, being filled with the Holy Ghost they accepted Him as their teacher and guide. But in the process of time the church lost her primitive power; the presence of the Holy Ghost seemed less real. The necessity of a teacher and guide was felt; hence the absence of the Holy Ghost necessitated the substitution of another teacher and guide, a “dead ecclesiasticism,” called the Holy Catholic Church (?) with the prerogative of the Divine Spirit, thus the priesthood was exalted and invested with power to forgive sins; and the Pope made the “visible head of the church,” or vicar of Jesus Christ upon earth. But the church felt the need of an “Infallible Teacher;” the loss of the Divine Paraclete necessitated a substitution. If the resemblance of the Apostolic Church be maintained, hence the system must supply the lack. Thus the dogma of infallibility was conceived, ending in the exaltation of the Pope of Rome above all that is called God, or that is worshiped – the “Man of Sin” sitting in the temple of God shewing himself that he is God.

Thus, we see that any man-made system of ecclesiasticism must necessarily be lifeless and powerless, just in proportion as it fails to recognize the personal presence and authority of the Holy Ghost and sets up its own order and authority. Indeed, the modern church has so far lost sight of the veritable presence and authority of the personal Holy Ghost, that everything seems reduced to “system” – yea, an endless treadmill of works. The form of religion takes the place of vital godliness, and the people seem to have forgotten that there is any Holy Ghost.

It is said history repeats itself. Let us consider; what meaneth the cry of “fanatic” now so prevalent in the sects as used against the holiness movement? Perhaps we may learn a lesson from Rome – why did the Romish hierarchy persecute Reformers? Simply because they had substituted a wire bound ecclesiasticism (a man-made system) for the presence and authority of the personal Holy Ghost, a lifeless system – yea, a dead

ecclesiasticism was thought to be the one Holy Catholic Church. It was not allowed that any could be loyal to God unless loyal to the system, hence the cry of “heretic” which today finds its counterpart in the term “holiness fanatic,” as used by the dominant sects against holiness men. In their devotion to churchism they lose sight of the personal Holy Ghost and exalt the system. We must get back to Apostolic ground; the presence and power of the Holy Ghost must mark (or make manifest) the church. Nevertheless, the blinding power of churchism will deceive nominal professors in the Protestant sects just as effectually as it did in the Roman church. It is eternally true that the natural man perceiveth not the things of the Spirit of God. The great Sanhedrin judged it right that Jesus Christ the Lord of glory, judged to be a vile deceiver, should be crucified between two thieves. The Romish Church considered it right to burn heretics, and in all ages the mystic Babylon of Revelation has persecuted the true saints of God. Thus it will be till the time of the end.

D. W. M’Laughlin
The Gospel Trumpet, March 1, 1881

The Holy Spirit is Competent

Brother and Sister Warner: We are all well in body, and glory to God, also perfect soundness in soul. I can say that I am wonderfully free in the Lord. I am neither creed, sect, nor lodge bound. By God’s grace I am standing straight with His Word, though it condemns all sin and sects. I have learned a good lesson this winter. I am forever done with sects, except to expose their abominations. I have no compromise to make with them in the least. I am being wonderfully taught by the Spirit of God, which leads us into all truth, but never contrary to it.

I was talking the other day with my uncle about God’s Church, as it is in the Bible. He said that it might be so, if Christ were here in person to govern it. Why, said I, is it possible, Uncle, that you have been so long a Christian, and yet know so little about the Comforter that Christ sent to take the place of His personal presence? Could Christ, if here in the flesh do more than “lead us into all truth” and teach us all things, what we should do and say? But all this is just what the Lord promised that the Spirit should do for us. Now if He is not capable of organizing, and governing the Church, and Christ was capable, then it was *not expedient* for us that Christ went away and sent the Comforter in His stead.

But glory to God, the Holy Spirit, I find, is able to organize me into the body of Christ, keep me from all sin, and so govern me as to bring my whole life into harmony with God, and all others that are under His reign.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to unite the saints, but that of the devil, carnality, and human works to divide them into different sect names and interests. Glory to Jesus, for the Comforter, who fully represents the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, and is *more* than the personal presence of Christ could be.

Your brother in Christ,
 A. C. McCurdy, Churubusko, IN, *The Gospel Trumpet*, August 1, 1883

Branches

Where in the Bible do we find the idea of sects being branches as people talk about? “What branch of the Church do you belong to?” is a common expression in these times of anti-scriptural language and practice. Why do not people read their Bibles better and learn that every individual believer is a branch in Christ? (John 15.)

If the whole sect is a branch, then the individual must be a sub-branch. But this would make each one dependent upon the sect for his union with, and life from Christ. This would be second-hand salvation. We should not like to risk the coupling – I prefer a direct union with Christ.

Taking Christ’s parable of the vine and branches, there is but one way to represent branch sects; that is, imagine the branches adhering directly in the vine but pressed together and tightly bound into several bunches. Thus, drawn together each bundle would have the appearance of a branch, but upon closer examination it would be found to consist of many branches each adhering in the vine, except a good many dead sticks that had been killed by the unnatural confinement, and had rotted loose from the trunk.

We think it is the great business of the pure Gospel sword of holiness to cut those soul-killing chords that the Father may purge the several branches and that they may all straighten out in natural position; live, grow, and bear fruit unto holiness.

W.

The Gospel Trumpet, March 1, 1881

Christian Unity

(Christ the Center)

To the saints of God scattered abroad, greeting! Dearly beloved, we have come to Mount Zion – “to the general assembly and church of the First Born, which are written in heaven; and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” The Lord Jesus Christ is the “Center of Unity,” “and ye are complete in Him who is the Head of all principality and power.” His blood speaketh “*Holiness and Oneness*.”

Jesus that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate – and holiness ushers in visible oneness – “that they all may be one, as Thou Father art in me and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” “And the glory which thou gavest me, I have given them, that they may be one even as we are one.”

The divine fold, or God’s holy church, has but one door, head and foundation, and that is Jesus Christ. He is the only way to God – none other can be found. “I am the door, by me if any man enter in he shall be saved.” Men have attempted to build God’s church upon a “creed basis or formulated doctrinal systems.” The result has been

denominational confusion and division, and subdivision of the denominational bodies and the opening of a multiplicity of “sect doors” – contrary to both the letter and Spirit of the Gospel which forbids all divisions of the one body of Christ; of which Christ is the only door. “He that entereth not by the door into the sheep-fold (or church), but climbeth up *some other way*, the same is a thief and a robber.”

We must return to the Apostolic standard of visible oneness and catholicity – this means the abolition of sectarianism that necessarily destroys visible unity. The gates of hell have prevailed against the sectarian churches, and the general prevalence of the form of godliness denying the power, marks a fallen and divided church. “A house divided against itself cannot stand, and every kingdom divided against itself cannot stand, but is brought to desolation.” God’s church is a “Spiritual Home,” a divine kingdom, of which Jesus Christ is the “Chief Corner Stone,” as well as “Head over all things to the church which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.”

“There is one body and one Spirit even as ye are called in one hope of your calling,” one Lord, one faith, one baptism – therefore let us “who were sometime darkness, but are not light in the Lord, walk as children of light,” “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” This is gospel oneness – yea, the Apostolic basis of Pentecost. We say an ecclesiastical or creed basis outside of the Bible is a rope of sand – this is the mark of “mystic Babylon” that draws to an ecclesiastical center based upon the unity of the system rather than the unity of the Spirit. Thus, Christ’s spiritual house, or holy temple is confounded with *man-made systems*; the substance is lost in the shadow and the wreck and ruin of this great Babylon that man has built is the result – a worldly church having the form of godliness instead the bride of Christ described in Isaiah 52:1.

D. W. McLaughlin, Maroa, IL
The Gospel Trumpet, May 1, 1881

Seven Important Questions

1. Is the church of God, the body of Christ, His Bride, a human organization containing both saint and sinner?

No.

2. Is any humanly constituted sect, from Catholicism to Free Methodist, either the church of God or branch of it?

Nay, verily.

3. Has the church of God any branches except its individual members, according to the Scripture?

It has not.

4. Are not all the members of Christ joined directly to the Lord, and become one spirit and one body governed only by Christ the only Head?

Yes.

5. Are not all those who are joined to any human sect or party joined to something which is not Christ's body, and governed by some power other than Christ?

They most certainly are.

6. As Jesus prayed that His people might be one, and as Paul said, "that there be *no divisions* among you," should not all of God's children who are now in any sect, pen, or party, come out therefrom that they be not separated from those that are not in their sect walls?

They most certainly ought.

7. Are not all God's children who are now in the mixed and corrupt churches, so-called (which men have made), as plainly and positively commanded to "come out from among them and be separate," and to "come out of her my people," as they are to be holy?

They most certainly are. 2 Cor. 6:14-18, 7:1.

Then let us all quickly obey God and live, and not disobey Him and die. O dear children of God everywhere, take the stand God would have you take in Christ alone, free from all human bondage and the fearful entanglements of earthly alliances.

A. M. Raper
Fairmont, IN
The Gospel Trumpet, May 1, 1881

Are Denominations Recognized By the Word of God?

by Paul Lable

"There is one body and one Spirit." Eph. 4:4. "As the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body." 1 Cor. 12: 12-13. "That there should be no schism in the body." 1 Cor. 12:25. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Cor. 1: 10. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." Rom. 16:17. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves ... For I know this ... of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away

disciples after them (not after Christ)” Acts 20: 28-30. “... Every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided?” 1 Cor. 1: 12, 13. “While one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I of Appollos; are ye not carnal?” 1 Cor. 3: 4.

1st. The divisions now are rather, “I am of the Church of England,” “I of the Presbyterian,” “I of the Congregational,” “I of the Baptist,” “I of the United Brethren,” “I of the Methodists,” “I of the Plymouth Brethren,” etc., etc., etc; but they show the same carnal spirit of strife and division.

2nd. All the names that God applied to His people included all the members of the body of Christ, i.e., “Saints,” “Brethren,” “Believers,” “Christians;” and they all exclude the world, being quite inapplicable to any but saved people. Hence they are conservative of the Spirit, and of the broad line that separates, in the sight of God, the Church from the world.

On the contrary, all the names assumed by men fail to embrace all the members of the body of Christ and are as applicable to an unbeliever as to a believer, provided he has joined himself to one of the said denominations.

3rd. It is therefore evident that to acknowledge any name but those by which God calls His people, or to be identified with any party divisions in the Church, is to sin as did the Corinthians.

What is Babylon?

“Babylon,” from the word “Babel,” signifies confusion; and most fittingly represents the state of the great family of churches. The fall of Babylon (Rev. 18: 2) cannot mean her destruction; because after her fall, God’s people are called out of her, lest they should partake of her sins (Rev. 18: 4). Her fall, therefore, must be a moral fall.

The church of Rome claims the Church of England as her daughter. If the church of Rome were ever guilty of idolatry, in relation to the Saints, her daughter, the Church of England, stands guilty of the same, which has ten churches dedicated to Mary, but one dedicated to Christ (Catholic Christian Instructor, page 18).

Romish Church

If she be the mother, who are the daughters? It must be the corrupt National established churches that came out of her. The call of God’s people now is, “come out of her, my people, that ye partake not of her sins, and receive not of her plagues.”

What do we see in these worldly churches? Conformity to the world, pride, hatred, strife. But in the true Church is love, and the Savior says, “by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35). But these worldly churches hate each other, so that we must say, “By this shall all men

know that they are not my disciples, because they hate one another (not the disciples of Christ).

Martin Luther, just before his death, writing on the prophetic period of Daniel, in his German Bible says: "About the consummation of these periods, this Gospel will be shut out of all the churches, and confined to private houses." When one of M. Luther's guests remarked that the world might continue 50 years, he replied: "Pray God it may not exist so long; matters would be even worse than they have been. There would rise up infinite sects and schisms, which are at present hidden in men's hearts, not mature. No: may the Lord come at once, for there is no amendment to be expected."

Now, when He comes, will He find faith on the earth? The question implies a strong meaning: no. He will not find faith on the earth. He Himself foresees it in general. He will find but few good people, few that really and truly good; many that have the form and fashion of godliness, but few that have FAITH.

Reader, are you reconciled to God? Is your peace made with heaven? Do you love Jesus? Are you living a hopeful life?

How are the children of God scattered abroad to be gathered together unto Him? Simply by each one taking his Book as his guide and the Holy Ghost as his Teacher. Shall He teach them to remain apart? Oh no! He will gather them. God always gathers His people. It is only the wolf that "scatters the sheep" (John 10:12). **But to whom will the Holy Ghost gather the Saints? To the One whom He delighteth to honor: our Lord Jesus Christ. Not to Him and something else, but to Himself alone.**

May God bless all His children is my prayer.

Yours truly in Christ,
Paul Lable

The Gospel Trumpet, September 22, 1882

Unsectarian Christians

(Reprinted from another anti-sectarian publication, *The Sword*)

Dear Bro. Dolan: In the *Free Methodist* of September 5th is an article on "Church Organization," which, for sophistry and arrogance exceeds all that has preceded it. It charges that all who do not believe in sects are "presumptuous" and "self-willed;" that they despise governments and are "not afraid to speak evil of dignities;" and that such are "deserving of the anathemas of the Church."

The article contains at least four false assumptions: (1) That those who repudiate sects discard church organization and government; (2) That sects (among Christians) are Divinely appointed; (3) That they have legislative authority; and (4) The right to

pronounce those who love our Lord Jesus Christ, *accursed*. Surely, the Pope of Rome never claimed more than this.

The Bible doctrine is that there is “one body and one Spirit.” This constitutes the one Church, in which all “schism” is *expressly forbidden*. (See 1 Cor. 12: 25.) All members of the body of Christ who live in a given place constitute the Church in that place. They are divinely authorized to meet together for Christian worship, and, if need be, they may have deacons to care for the poor, and elders to watch over the flock. They may labor with erring or false brethren according to Matt. 18: 15-17, 2 Thes. 3: 6, 11-12, and they may solemnly set apart to the missionary work those who, like Paul and Barnabas, are manifestly called of God (Acts 13: 2-3). What was done in the primitive Church under similar circumstances they might do today. But such Church can confer no right to preach the Gospel. They can only recognize the right as already existing. **They cannot make any person a member of the Church. No one but Christ, the Head, can do that. They can only recognize the fact that, in the mercy and providence of God, saved souls are already members.** They have no right to take a sect name, for this is expressly forbidden (1 Cor. 1: 10-12; also 4: 1-4). **Nor have they any right to make one condition of Christian fellowship and another of church fellowship, for whoever belongs to Christ belongs to all of His people.** Especially has no so-called church any right to legislate, for all law is *revealed* in the sacred Scriptures, which have been “given by inspiration of God, and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Tim. 3: 15, 17.) Now if we are *thoroughly* furnished unto all good works, there is surely no occasion for legislation, and it is arrogance to *claim* such authority.

But our brother thinks that all who do not bow the knee to sect authority should have hurled upon them “the anathemas of the church.” This word occurs but once in the Bible (1 Cor. 16: 22), where Paul, speaking by inspiration, says, “If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ let him be Anathema Maranatha” – accursed at the Lord’s coming. Does our Brother Hunter suppose that the Free Methodists, or anybody else, has a right to call their fellowmen *accursed*? Has he ever read that “vengeance is *mine*, and *I* will repay, saith the Lord?”

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What and Where Is the Church of God?

It is not any of the existing sects, neither is it all of them together. God’s Church is not separated in spirit. She is one in Christ, wherever you find her. Men, by the help of the devil, have sought by many inventions to divide Her, and they have succeeded in their work of deceiving themselves, and many others. The devil has been trying to make the people believe that the worldly, proud, jealous, formal, lukewarm and abominable divisions, called churches, compose the Church of God.

God’s Church is composed of all who are His indeed. Now we find many of God’s dear children inside these human enclosures, but thank God, they are not of them, though they be in them. God’s Church is not a sect, nor a party, but She is composed of

all those who are His indeed, either inside or outside of these walls or divisions. Glory to God! But God has promised to gather His people from all places where they have been scattered in the “dark and cloudy day.” – Read the 34th chapter of Ezekiel.

“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins.” – Read the 18th chapter of Revelation. You can see that many of God’s children are in bondage somewhere, but God is going to deliver them, unite them, purify them, and try them, before the coming of the Lord. – See Daniel 12th chapter. Glory to God, He has already a people who are free from sectism, and God is delivering His little ones every day, all over the land. Yes, Zion is rising and putting on Her strength. The great day of Her deliverance is at hand.

That you, my dear Christian brethren, may see the light, and walk in it, is the sincere prayer of your true friend and brother in Christ. Amen!

H. R. Jeffrey
The Gospel Trumpet, July 1, 1885