

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Heresy & Reformation

The history of God's people is a series of crossroads

He calls the Hebrew people through Abram

- **Genesis 12:1-3**, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you..."
- Two things he knew: What he was leaving & who he was following
- "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

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God delivers them to the promised land after 430 years of slavery

- They develop a system of **600+ laws** to be right with God
- They required all people to **become like them** to be right with God

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Jesus (Messiah) comes and fulfills God's requirements

- **Colossians 2:9**, "For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ,"
 - He "**Re-forms**" true faith in God
 - He tells us **keeping three laws** will meet all of God's requirements
- *Matthew 22:37-40 & John 13:34**

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Jesus completes His earthly work and hands it over to His followers

- **Acts 1:8**, (The Hebrew system that killed Jesus rejects them)

Before long they are **fracturing in division**

- **I Corinthians 1:10-13a**

Paul reminds us that **together we** (the church) **are His fullness**

- **Ephesians 1:22-23 & 4:11-16**

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Emperor Constantine embraces **Christianity as the state church**

- Roman Catholicism develops into another exclusive authority **under a human hierarchy**, including an "**infallible**" human leader
- **Rules & rituals become requirements** of right standing with God
- "The Church" even wages war with its own army

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***A man reads God's Word without the lenses of church tradition...**

- Believing that **God can speak for Himself**
- Seeing that they had established rules & traditions (again)...
- **Replacing faith and relationship with God**
- Thus, the **Protestant Reformation** is born (an unfortunate name)
- Which today has **22,000 denominational fractures** world-wide

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"The Church" has become doctrinal & theological tribes & villages...

- With some **independent, disconnected individual congregations**
- Each wanting to be contentedly **self-sufficient**
- Declaring themselves **to be Biblical**

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There are five references to **heresy** in the NT

- All derived from **the same word**, meaning:
- **“To make a choice for oneself for disunion”**
- **“To be schismatic” (divisive)**

Not movers & shakers, but **smoothers & shapers**

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Titus 3:10 says, “Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.”

Divisive people joining together become **divisive groups**

- We are called to always be **examples of Oneness in Christ**
- Encouraging **all who will**

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God **Unites** us in Christ – **John 17:20-23**

- This is **His greatest passion!**
- **His reason** for coming, living, suffering & dying...
- Then rising again **in Life over death!**
- That we may be **One Together** in/with Him

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I believe we’ve arrived at a **God authored crossroads...**

- A time to return **His Church** to the definitions of **His Word**
- To **Re-Form** the church of His design...
- Of Abram & Christ’s calling (**Matthew 16:18 & John 13:34-35**)

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God’s Word gives us the **clearest, most detailed instruction** of what that Oneness looks & works like...

- Through the lens of **I Corinthians 1:2 & 10-13a** (Congregations)
- Two demonic lies are exposed in **I Corinthians 12:12-27 (Vs. 15-16 & 21)**

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How shall we then live?

I Peter 2:5 says, “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”