

American Faith: So Many Churches

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

Even the _____ faith has many factions. Is division OK?

American Faith Is Characterized By Many Different Churches

- A. One site says there are _____ congregations in America with _____ different denominations.
- B. How do people generally feel about denominationalism?
 - 1. Americans value _____. Why now have it in _____?
 - 2. Harrington: It "means we are taking theology _____." But he notes: "Think about how this _____ to the _____."
 - 3. Engebretsen: Why are we divided? "Because we're a _____ people." But does God have a _____ for it?
 - 4. Stetzer: Over the last _____ decades, _____ churches have seen _____% growth.
- C. Acts 17:23 - Paul taught about _____ God, not _____.

What American Faith Ought To Aim For

- A. What Jesus said about His church:
 - 1. Matthew 16:18 - He was going to _____ His _____ (the word is _____).
 - 2. John 10:16 - "There will be one _____, _____ shepherd."
 - 3. John 17:11,20-23 - What kind of _____ did Jesus desire? The same as _____ and the _____ had.
- B. Other statements of what the church should aim to be:
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 - Their aim should be to be _____ in the same _____ and the same _____.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 7:17 - His teaching on this issue was the _____ in _____ the churches.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 16:1 - The guidance on _____ was the _____ for Corinth as it was for churches in _____.
 - 4. Titus 1:5 - _____ were to be appointed in _____ town in Crete.
 - 5. 1 Corinthians 1:10 - Paul sought to establish a _____ for all the churches so they could be _____.
- C. Romans 15:5,6 - Live in _____ so that with _____ voice you may _____ God.

The world will marvel at the _____ between _____.

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