

- (15) Some groups of Christians have banded together to express and preserve their distinctive beliefs and practices, but have refused to be called by any other title than "believers" or "Christians". (Practically, of course, they find that they must call themselves by some name, to distinguish themselves from denominationalists!). Some local groups of Christians have joined with other such groups in organized relationships (associations, fellowships, conventions, conferences), having distinctive constellations of beliefs and practices, and have called themselves by a distinctive name, but have rejected the appellation "denomination". Some local groups of Christians have become so distinctive in their structure, beliefs, and practices that they have rejected any semblance of organized relationship with other local churches, and have attempted to carry out all the functions of the church under their own umbrella. In effect, all of these fit the definition of denominations.
- (16) All of Christ's churches need to study ways and means of most effectively carrying out all of the functions of the church, while at the same time striving to manifest the unity that all true believers and Christian churches already enjoy in Christ!