

## Remnant Church

**purpose:** To show that Christ's Word is leading all of His sheep into one fold.

**center it:** Jesus gives His life for His sheep and we are inspired to join His church because of that.

**introduction:** Is it confusing that multiple churches teach different things from the same book? Is it confusing that there are so many denominations? Is this God's design?

1 Corinthians 14:33

- This is not God's design because God is not the author of confusion.
- If God didn't create this situation, then who did?

John 10:12

- The wolf scatters and divides the sheep.
- Does Jesus have a plan to help His sheep find His fold (church/company of believers)?

John 10:16

- Jesus desires there to be one fold.
- How does He intend to accomplish this?
- How do we hear His voice?

2 Timothy 3:16

- The Scripture is God-breathed. (In the literal Greek.)
- We are going to consider 6 characteristics that Jesus' Word gives us in order to find His one fold.

1 Timothy 3:15

- Paul tells us that the church is the pillar and ground of what?
- If a church teaches what is not true, it cannot be the foundation of truth. It cannot be the one fold.

Revelation 12:1

- Who is the woman?

2 Corinthians 11:2 (Jeremiah 6:2; Isaiah 51:16; Ephesians 5:31-33)

- Paul in this passage compares the church of God to a chaste virgin, or a woman.

Revelation 12:2-6, 13

- Who does the dragon attempt to kill as soon as He is born? Jesus.
- Does he succeed? No.
- Then what does he do? He persecutes the woman.
- Where does the woman go and for how long? The wilderness for 1,260 years.
- Understanding that the church escaped to the wilderness for the 1,260 prophetic days or literal years to escape papal persecution, helps us understand that God's true church could not be a public congregation until after 1798.

Revelation 12:17

- Two characteristics of Christ's one fold (church) are expressed here in verse 17—keep commandments and testimony of Jesus.
- What is the testimony of Jesus?

John 5:39

- Jesus says something testifies of Him. What?

Revelation 14:6,7

- Two more characteristics are found in this passage—worldwide mission and present tense judgment message.

John 10:16

- Is Christ truly your Shepherd?
- Are you willing to listen to His voice?

**appeal:** John 10:16. Will you join the true church of the living God? Do you want to listen to the voice of God and follow Him into His true fold? We need your talent, we need your time, we need your gifts. We have a mission to accomplish and God is calling you to be a part of it. Will you come join my church?

I went to talk to Jesus about the difficulty of this decision and I found Him on the cross. Seeing Him on the cross, I couldn't talk to Him about the difficulties. How in the world could I resist where He is leading me? Friend, will you come with me?

**defend it:**

How do you get to Heaven without being an Adventist?

- Not trying to say that. There was no 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist denomination until about 1860's.
- Was there a true church in the OT? Yes, it was the Israelites. They were a called out body of believers.
- Does the fact that God had a true church in the OT exclude all other people in the OT from salvation? No. (Rahab, Nebuchadnezzar, Naomi, Ruth, Widow of Zapheth)
- Neither are those who have not had opportunity to become an Adventist excluded.
- However, the fact that people can be saved outside of the organization does not negate the fact that there is a true organization.
- One truth does not negate another.
- Truth is progressive. God is leading people one step at a time. If you are climbing Jacob's ladder, and following the Spirit of God

The true church is not a physical denomination, it is merely a spiritual concept.

- Look at Revelation 12:17. The Dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed.
- What is a remnant? Composed of same material (same color, fabric)
- Did the apostolic church have an organized body? Yes, it had to in order to ordain positions such as bishops, elders, etc.
- The true church at the end of time is a remnant of the apostolic church.
- Acts 15- council of Jerusalem. The general conference gets together to have a session and think through theological problems. Example of a literal organized body.
- The church has never before been defined as merely a spiritual concept. Why then, would God's last day remnant church be only spiritual.

## 1260 Years

The History of the Christian Church vol.3 p.327

The (Roman church-state's) power became supreme in Christendom in **538 AD**. Due to a letter of a Roman emperor Justinian, known as Justinian's decree, which set up and acknowledged the bishop of Rome as the head of all churches. It gave the (Roman church-state political power, civil power as well as ecclesiastical power. This letter became part of Justinian's code, the fundamental law of the empire and that year Pope Vigilius ascended the throne under the military protection of Belisarius.

The Encyclopedia Americana, 1941 edition

"In **1798** he (Berthier) made his entrance into Rome, ABOLISHED THE PAPAL GOVERNMENT and established a secular one."

Italy and Her Invaders (8-vol. ed.) Vol. IV, p.285

Witigis then besieged the city of Rome from March, 537, to March, **538**, when he raised the siege, after losing the flower of his army, and retired to Ravenna, his capital. T. Hodgkin says: "With heavy hearts the barbarians must have thought, as they turned them northwards, upon the many graves of gallant men which they were leaving on that fatal plain. Some of them must have suspected the melancholy truth that they had dug one grave, deeper and wider than all, the grave of the Gothic monarchy in Italy."

History of the Christian Church (7-vol. ed.), Vol. III, p.827. New, York: Scribner's, 1893

"Vigilius, a pliant creature of Theodora, ascended the papal chair under the military protection of Belisarius (**538-555**)." See also "General History of the Catholic Church," M. I'Abbe J.E. Darras, Vol. II, p.146,147 (New York:1866), and "The Official Catholic Directory" for 1933, "List of Roman Pontiffs" on page 7.

History of the Christian Church p. 310,311

Justinian... enriched himself with the property of all 'heretics'- that is non-Catholics, and gave all their churches to the Catholics, published edicts in **538** compelling all to join the Catholic Church in ninety days or leave the empire, and confiscated all their goods. Cincinatti:1873. The same is stated by Samuel Chandler in "History of Persecution," p.142,143; and by Edward Gibbon, in "Decline and Fall," chap. 47, par. 24.

The Modern Papacy p. 1. London: Catholic Truth Society

Rev. Joseph Rickaby, English Jesuit,

"When, in 1797, Pope Pius VI fell grievously ill, Napoleon gave orders that in the event of his death no successor should be elected to his office, and that the Papacy should be discontinued. "But the Pope recovered. The peace was soon broken; Berthier entered Rome on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, **1798**, and proclaimed a republic. The aged Pontiff refused to violate his oath by recognizing it, and was hurried from prison to prison in France... ` No wonder that half Europe though Napoleon's veto would be obeyed, and that with the Pope the Papacy was dead."