

Why Are There So Many Churches?

Intro:

1. It is a matter of authority - accepting it or rejecting it!

Body:

I. Authority which is from heaven.

A. All authority is from God — Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:1-3.

1. First through the prophets, then His Son — Heb. 1:1-2.
2. And finally through the apostles and prophets — Jn. 17:8
 - a. They were guided — Jn. 14:26; Jn. 16:13.
 - b. They wrote for our understanding — Eph. 3:4-5.
 - c. His word was preserved — 2 Pet. 3:15-16.

II. Authority which is from man.

A. For example:

1. Cain (different) — Gen. 4:3-5; Heb. 11:4; Rom. 10:17.
2. Nadab & Abihu (added) — Lev. 10:1-2.
3. Saul (rejected or eliminated) — 1 Sam. 15:23.

B. These show men acting on his their own authority — Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12.

1. The result of such — Mk. 7:6-9; 2 Jn. 9; Rom. 6:23.

III. Application to the question, "Why are there so many churches?"

A. The Bible authorizes one church —

Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:4.

1. Therefore, not all churches are authorized by God.

B. For instance:

1. We are to worship according to truth — Jn. 4:23-24.

a. God authorized singing — Eph. 5:19; 2 Cor. 14:15.

2. Immersion is authorized — Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 8:38.

3. The royal priesthood is authorized — 1 Pet. 2:9.

a. The clergy system is not authorized —
Matt. 23:8-10; Gal. 3:28.

Conc:

1. Why are there so many churches? Because men reject God's authority.
2. Are you in the one church authorized by God in His word?