

Idea of Denominations Biblical
Last Updated 07-01-2012 (British Calendar System)
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Concerning divisions in the Church (denominations, etc):

It seems not only permissible, but biblical, for the people of God to gather according to particular divisions.

In Numbers 1:52-54a we see that the children of Israel pitched "their tents, everyone by his own camp, everyone by his own standard, according to their armies."

1. They pitched their tents (temporary dwelling place)
2. by their own camp (common ground where others of specific association may be found)
3. by their own standard (common flag or banner under which various camps and armies reside; or, common point around which various camps and armies gather)
4. according to their armies

It may be argued that the Church, the people of God through Jesus Christ, may gather according to:

1. Temporarily dwelling place (i.e. **religious gathering** or church)
2. "Camp" (i.e. place of like-minded individuals or common ground for gathering) i.e. **specific affiliation** or denomination
3. "Standard" (i.e. a flag or banner held up which "stands" for a particular camp or military division) Throughout war history, armies have gathered under the flags or banners that represent them. In the Church, **creeds and articles of faith** would probably be the closest parallel to a standard. What are the emphasized truths or truths commonly agreed upon around which you gather?
4. "Armies" (i.e. **ministries**, centralized networks, religious structures and particular organizations) It is this specific way of categorizing that brings up the idea of structure, rank, position, authority, etc. Armies utilize both rank and skills to accomplish particular tasks and gain victory in battle. Multiple armies are sometimes, if not often needed to win wars. The army must remember who or what it is fighting for, and what is at stake. Each army is important. Each one contributes to the overall war effort. All of the armies are ultimately commanded by one person. Therefore, all of the armies, though divided according to camp and standard, are united towards the same ultimate end.
5. "Tribe" This is the last thing to consider. Each tribe was an army, with it's own standard, and camp. What "tribe" are you a part of? If you are a part of a certain camp, gather under a particular standard, and march in a specific army, your tribe should be obvious.
(For further remarks see study: "**God-Sanctioned Divisions of the Tribes of Israel Listed at 1st Census**")

Questions to consider:

- What is the name of your **church**?
- What is the name of your **denomination**?
- What **creeds and/or articles of faith** do you hold to?
- **What ministry** are you a part of?

Having answered those things, **What is your "tribe?"**

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