



Official website of the Salt Lake Christian Church

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[Vol.2 No. 17 - Concern for all the Churches](#)

October 22nd, 2006

Concern For All of the Churches

Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? 2 Corinthians 11:28-29

Due to recent events in our family of churches, we, the leadership of the Salt Lake Christian Church feel it necessary to respond with our thoughts and to provide some direction for our church. As Paul shared his heart, and love for all of the churches in the above scripture, it is our desire to do the same.

As a church we are very grateful to the Portland Church and their significant help in restoring our faith and church. We are grateful for the disciples who came from Portland to help strengthen us here, and for the continued relationships we have with the Portland family of churches. The training that Kip and Elena, the elders of the Portland church, and the other leaders of the Portland church have provided has been invaluable to our faith in our God. These relationships are treasured and will continue to be fostered by all of us.

At the same time we cannot help but be grateful for our relationships and the love we feel for our brothers all over the world. Many of the members of our church have come from other churches and continue to maintain relationships with our brothers and sisters there. We have deep ties to churches such as: Los Angeles, Seattle, Denver, San Diego, San Francisco, and Philadelphia. At the recent International Leadership Conference Dave and Jay had great times of fellowship with brothers from the: Seattle Church, Denver Church, LA Church, Triangle Church, the Tallahassee Church, Columbia and Columbus Missouri churches, Spokane Church, Cape Town South Africa Church, the Abidjan Africa Church, Bay Area Christian Church, Montreal Church, and the Phoenix Valley Christian Church. These friendships and the churches they represent are very dear to our hearts.

Knowing that there is a definite rift growing in our family of churches we wish to make it very clear where we stand. Paul's words to the Disciples in Corinth resonate with our hearts. ***I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. 1 Corinthians 1:10.*** It is very disheartening and unbelievable that brothers, united

in the fight just a few years ago, can now call each other's effort "Satanic". It is disappointing to all of us and can threaten to divide us if we do not make every effort to understand the role that God has placed us in. We firmly believe the strife that has occurred in our churches has been designed and carried out by the mighty hand of our God. ***In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. Proverbs 16:9***, "when all the people saw this they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord- he is God! The Lord he is God!" We need to understand that as a movement we had become too man focused and God, as he did with the building of the tower of Babel, was forced to divide us so that he could receive the glory of our work. We do not believe it was his pleasure to cause this divide, but it is to his glory. As we go forward from here it is important that we hold to this belief and continue to focus our attention on pleasing God with our lives here in Utah.

As the leadership of the Salt Lake Christian Church we firmly believe God has placed us in a position as a bridge between the two sides of this argument. And it is to this end that we will continue to work. When asked to sign the unity proposal we declined, not because we thought it was a bad concept, but because we value our relationship with the Portland family of Churches and do not wish to restrict or damage our relationships. To that same end we cannot condone the conduct of the Portland Family of Churches and their split from the rest of our family. While included as part of their family, on paper, and while we will do all that we can to support them in their faith, we are disappointed that our church was included in a list of churches that are forming their own movement. We do not want to be included on any list that brings division not unity. Is Christ Divided? 1 Corinthians 1:13 The only movement that we wish to be a part of is the movement of God. We will continue to support our brothers no matter what church they come from. We will open wide our hearts and welcome the bond of brotherhood with any and all of our brothers throughout the world. In the coming year we will welcome brothers and sisters from Seattle, Denver, LA, San Diego, and Portland as guest speakers for our church. We hope that others will be able to come and share the good news with us as they are willing. We are also willing to go to any church that welcomes us and share as well the good things God has been doing amongst us.

As disciples of Jesus let us focus on pleasing him! We believe it is God's will that we be ***fishers of men Mark 1:17***, that we ***love one another and bear with one another Ephesians 4:2***, that we ***not tolerate wickedness amongst us Revelation 2:2***, and that we ***walk humbly with our God Micah 6:8***. Let us each strive to glorify God with our lives by being aware of the events that are taking place around us, but not distracted by these events. We need to live in confidence that God truly is in control. He is sovereign and it is in him that we need to take refuge. ***But my eyes are fixed on you, O Sovereign Lord; in you I take refuge-do not give me over to death. Keep me from the snares they have laid for me, from the traps set by evildoers. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by in safety. Psalm 141:8.***

Amen and God Bless.

The Leadership of the Salt Lake Christian Church

6 comments to "Vol.2 No. 17 - Concern for all the Churches"

1. In case you're wondering what, specifically, this is responding to here's the link the the Portland bulletin: <http://www.upsidedown21.org/1.1/index.php?langID=1&artID=155>
 ✖ [by admin](#) October 25th, 2006 at 10:01 pm
2. I appreciate your desire to be open with your fellowship with other ICOC churches. You seem to leave out fellowship with non-ICOC churches, do you not see them as brothers?
 ✖ [by Eid Fakhouri](#) October 26th, 2006 at 12:34 am
3. Thanks for publishing this thoughtful letter. I'm sure it took a lot of courage.

The only thing that concerns me is that, it appears that you only regard churches that are/were part of the ICOC to be a part of your family of churches? What about the mainline Churches of Christ? What about the Independent Christian Churches? They teach the same core gospel as your group teaches (I am a part of a Christian church). Therefore, why don't you regard them, also, as part of your family of churches?

In my opinion, true healing will being in the ICOC only when the ICOC congregations reach out to churches/ministries outside the ICOC, and seek outside help. I don't think God is pleased with the way that the ICOC had isolated themselves from the rest of the Christian community.

❖ [by Just a Disciple](#) October 26th, 2006 at 11:56 am

4. disclaimer: I speak simply as a member of Salt Lake Christian Church and do not represent any official opinion of the church.

We talk mostly about the ICOC churches because that's the big family we started with. It's easy to know that these people share similar beliefs and carry a similar culture and plus our congregation has built many personal connections with ICOC congregations around the country and the world. Many of the Salt Lake Christian Church congregation transferred membership to another local church called Southeast Christian Church when things were rocky. Many of us have retained relationships with these members and we still consider each other Christians simply in different congregations with different focuses and a different worshipping style. I was even in a discipling relationship.

So yes we see non-ICOC disciples as brothers.

In regards to where our focus is, however, is a different issue. I think that in the midst of so much debate going on our focus has been on retaining and building relationships within the ICOC. I personally would love to work more with Southeast on an official and larger scale manner (like inter-church events and guest speakers) but there seems to be a lack of enthusiasm for such projects from both congregations.

Also in case anyone was going to ask (again), the links put up on the side bar are posted by request from members of the congregation.

❖ [by admin](#) October 26th, 2006 at 5:31 pm

5. Just wondering.....did the leaders of the Salt Lake church talk to Kip and the Portland leaders and express their concerns/disappointments before publishing this letter?

❖ [by Just a Disciple](#) October 26th, 2006 at 6:31 pm

6. Hi my name is Josh Byrd and one of the leaders in the Salt Lake Christian Church. I was present in the meeting that decided the above letter. I would like to respond to some of your questions. First, about brothers and sisters in other congregations out side the ICOC/ICC. I would like to re-iterate what our admin said; the members I have talked to believe that those who share the same core doctrine and live like disciples are brothers/sisters regardless of their congregation. However, our admin is right by saying there has been a lack of enthusiasm. I could give my explanation why, but it would be opinion and could take us off topic. Second, it is my understanding from our meeting that Jay (our evangelist) did have a conversation with Kip. To his credit Kip was understanding and supportive. If this is not correct Jay can correct my error but this was my understanding. While we are on the topic about Portland/ Salt Lake relationship allow me to clear up some misconceptions that are out there.

1) We are not financially dependant on Portland nor does Portland control our finances in anyway. In fact this was never an issue, this is to Kip and Portland's credit. We are independent. P.S I am the on the financial board.

2) All church decisions are made in house. We might seek advice from Kip and Portland however; we also seek advice from other churches and church leaders. Nonetheless, all final decision on the direction of our church is done in house with no outside influence.

3) Unlike in the past, Portland or any other church has no right to come into our church and take our people away for leadership or mission work. Churches may ask, but we believe that it is up to the individual to make that decision. Once again to Kip's credit, he has never indicated he would do so nor has he attempted it. In fact it's been the opposite.

I hope this answers your questions. I add one more personal note: I believe all brothers and sisters in Christ should be unified and wish to extend an invitation to you. If you live in or near the Salt Lake area I would love to get together for lunch or coffee, you'll pay and I'll pray and we'll have a good time together in the Lord.

Edit: Spelling/grammar

❖ [by Joshua Byrd](#) October 27th, 2006 at 1:59 pm

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