

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## How do you define yourself?

(Jerry Fite)

Who are you? Hopefully you are a “Christian”. This simple designation defines you as belonging to and identifying with “Christ”. Those following Christ as learners were identified as “Christians” first in Antioch (*Acts 11:26*). A ruler recognized this name as describing those connected with Paul, and his preaching of the Gospel (*Acts 26:28*). Peter rallied his readers around the designation of “Christian” as being a name for which one should not be ashamed (*1 Pet. 4:16*).

Today, when those who claim to serve Christ have divided into distinct denominations, we wonder, “What kind of Christian are you?” Are you a Baptist-Christian, Methodist-Christian, Presbyterian-Christian, or Catholic-Christian? The name “Christian” often takes a back seat to these man-made denominational designations. We, like the disciples in the New Testament, should define ourselves as simply “Christians.”

Cecil May Jr., an editor of the paper “*Preacher Talk*”, and professor at Faulkner University

recently wrote an interesting article entitled *I Am An “Anti”*. Faulkner University is a Christian College associated with the “Churches of Christ”. At the close of the article he writes, “*A friend, a retired professor at Florida College who reads Preacher Talk, wrote me, ‘I believe some of us liberal conservatives and some of you conservative liberals are closer to each other than either of us is to the radicals in our own camps.’*”

Cecil May Jr., being in fellowship with the “institutional churches of Christ”, is considered “conservative” as some in his “institutional camp” now believe acapella music is merely our tradition. This group of “liberals” will celebrate the Lord’s supper at a wedding on a Friday night, and count unimmersed believers as being in Christ.

The former Florida college professor is apparently in fellowship with the “non-institutional churches of Christ.” He believes Cecil May Jr. is “liberal” because the editor agrees in congregational

support of human institutions, such as orphan homes.

According to the retired Florida College professor, he feels closer to some of his institutional friends than the “radicals” in his own non-institutional camp. Are these “radicals” those who believe Homer Hailey’s doctrine on marriage, divorce and remarriage is false doctrine, causing souls to be lost? Are these radicals the ones who believe there is no Biblical evidence for believing the days of creation were millions of years long, but six days as we know them? Are these radicals those who make application to 2 John 9-11, without respect of persons?

The retired Florida College professor has no problem defining himself as a “liberal conservative” to his “institutional” friend. Instead of issues drawing sincere people together in Bible study and proper application of Scripture, some have opted to accept the differences in issues and define themselves as “liberal” and others in the same “non-institutional” camp as “radical”. How do you define yourself?