

## The "Great Communion"

This past Sunday, churches which were historically identified with the "Restoration Movement" (Churches of Christ, Christian Churches, and Disciples of Christ) sought participation in a memorial to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Thomas Campbell's "Declaration and Address." This memorial was in the form of a special partaking of the Lord's supper at 4:00 p.m. in Nacogdoches at the First Christian Church.

Douglas Foster from Abilene Christian University called the "Declaration and Address" the "constitution" of the "Restoration Movement." A "constitution" is "the fundamental laws that normally govern the operation of a state or association." What is the difference if we call this document a "constitution" instead of a creed? Is it not true that the religious world has been divided by the creeds of men? What makes a Baptist a Baptist apart and distinct from a Methodist if it is not his church manual?

There are a number of reasons why the "Great Communion" is wrong and does not represent the beliefs of the Loop 287 Church of Christ. One reason is that participation in the "Great Communion" is a violation of the Bible doctrine of fellowship (2 John 9-11). Second, the "Great Communion" is an effort to demonstrate a unity that is contrary to scripture (Colossians 3:17). Third, a celebration of the writings of Thomas Campbell as our constitution is an insult to the sufficiency of the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We cannot endorse nor participate in this "Great Communion" celebration. It is sad that some took the great memorial of the Lord's supper and used it to advance a sectarian and divisive agenda, and then claimed that it is a way to demonstrate unity.

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