It Is the Differences That Make the Difference
1 Kings 12:32

Introduction:
A. Jeroboam established a new religion for the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
   1. Like the religion in Judah in many ways: Altar, feast, priests, sacrifices & incense.
   2. Different in significant ways: Calves, priesthood, place, and feast day.
   3. It was the difference that made the difference!
B. Most churches are alike in many ways — even like the N.T. church.
   1. In some basic beliefs: God, Christ and H.S., etc.
   2. In some of their basic facilities and operations.
      a. Buildings for worship and teaching.
      b. Sunday services, Mid-week, and special meetings.
   3. In the makeup of their membership: Sincere and hypocrites.
   4. Again, it is the differences that make the difference.
C. Let us notice three are areas where significant differences make the difference:

Discussion:
I. The Plan of Salvation Taught.
   B. Many teach faithfulness, but not essential to heaven (cf. Rev. 2:10; Heb. 3:12-13; 1 Cor. 10:12).
II. The Activities of the Church.
   A. In Worship.
      1. Sing but add instrumental music (cf. Eph. 5:19; 2 Jno. 9; G. wood, peanut butter on L.S.)
   B. In Work.
      1. Most make effort to preach/teach, help needy, and edify its members.
      2. Many also have social, recreational and/or political programs.
III. The Structure of the Church.
   A. Most have denomination names without Bible authority (cf. Col. 3:17).
   B. Most are organized beyond the congregational level.
      1. Organizational entities above and below congregational level.
   C. Most leadership differs from New Testament leadership.
      1. In most churches the preacher is the pastor.

Conclusion:
A. Let us not be lulled into thinking being alike in some ways is sufficient (cf. “The worship like us.”)
B. Remember: It is the differences that makes the difference.