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New Testament do you find the church at Corinth having their creed book, the church at Ephesus having still another creed book? The Bible teaches we are not to add to or take away from what is written in the Bible (Revelation 22:18, 19). The Bible further tells us that Jesus left us all things that pertain to life and Godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Jude says in Jude 3 to “*Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*” Since The Faith was once for all delivered there is no room for a man made creed book.

### **The Salvation Army Teaches Man Is Born a Sinner**

The Salvation Army teaches hereditary total depravity, that is, that we are born sinners because of inheriting sin from our parents, **The Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine**, pages 85, 86. Nothing could be further from what the New Testament teaches! Was Jesus a sinner? He was born of a woman (Galatians 4:4). Romans 3:23 says, “all have sinned...” not that all were born in sin. Ezekiel 18:4 says, “The soul that sinneth it shall die the son shall not inherit the iniquity of the father.” The children of Matthew 18:1ff were commended, not said to be sinners. Imagine people saying that God has placed dependent infants salvation in the hands of their parents. Might those babies die in sin if parents don’t care enough to save them?

### **The Salvation Army Teaches The Wrong Salvation**

The Salvation Army contends that the “inner illumination (of the Holy Spirit)” makes man know that the gospel is “true, and true for him personally” **The Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine**, pages 89, 133, and that repen-

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tance and faith are the only prerequisites of salvation **The Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine** pages 185, 186. Should one desire baptism anyway? The Salvation Army will sprinkle, pour or immerse him, the one desiring baptism’s option. Please consider errors in the above statements of their doctrine. First, Romans 1:16 says the gospel- not the gospel and an illumination of the Holy Spirit - is God’s power unto salvation. The gospel is the message of the Spirit (2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 3:16). Next faith and repentance are necessary to salvation (Hebrews 11:6; Acts 17:30, 31), but so are confession (Romans 10:9, 10) and baptism (1 Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:27; Acts 2:38), baptism is accomplished by a burial (Romans 6:3,4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:38, 39). Know where does the Bible talk about opting for sprinkling or pouring! One cannot be saved any other way but the gospel way taught in the New Testament (Galatians 1:6-9). The Salvation Army way is not the way taught in the New Testament. Therefore one cannot be saved the Salvation Army way.

### **Conclusion**

For these reasons we can neither support nor thank God for the Salvation Army nor can we “*bid them Godspeed*” (2 John 9-11). There are many other errors of the Salvation Army. I believe these will show them to be the false religion they are. How can we support such an organization?

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“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it”

Matthew 16:18

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## **7 Errors of The Salvation Army**



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Mike Hughes

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# 7 Errors of The Salvation Army

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One of the familiar sights seen around during the end of the year are the Salvation Army bell ringers. Most people think of them as an organization much like The Goodwill or perhaps like The March of Dimes or any other organization that asks for donations. As we will see from this article The Army is more than just an organization like those named about it are a Religious Organization. Let's notice 7 errors of The Salvation Army.

## The Wrong Beginning

The Salvation Army began in 1865. Founded by William Booth, a former member of the Methodist Church in London, England. It was first known as "**The East London Christian Mission**" until 1878, when the present name was given **Modern Churches and the Church**, page 221. From this we see the Salvation Army had the wrong found for it to be the true church of the New Testament (Matthew 16:18, 19). Christ not Booth is the head of the church in the New Testament (Ephesians 1:22,23). Neither of the names Booth has used are Biblical (Matthew 16:18, 19) - Kingdom or church; (Romans 16:16) - Churches of Christ; (1 Corinthians 1:2) - Church of God; etc. Next the Salvation Army has the wrong starting date - 1865. Jesus established his church in 33 AD (Luke 3:23; Acts 2). Again, the Salvation Army began in the wrong place - England. Christ's church began in Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-4; Acts 1:4; 2:5). Nothing about Booth's Army harmonizes with the New Testament account of the beginning of the church.

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## It Has The Wrong Organizational Structure

The Salvation Army's Organizational structure is made up of the following: International General, Chief of Staff, various overseas department. The United States for example is divided into 4 territories, with their respective headquarters in New York, Chicago, Atlanta and San Francisco; each headquarter has its own commander. The National Commander has his headquarters in New York. There are many other officers patterned after the military like Lieutenants, Captains, Majors, and etc. Does that sound like what the Lord has taught as the organization for His church? The Lord's plan for His church has Him as the Head (Colossians 1:18), Elders as overseers (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1) in every church (Acts 14:23), assisted by Deacons (Acts 6:1ff; 1 Timothy 3:8ff; Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 13:7, 17). Bishops or Elders are to exercise oversight only in the local congregation where they serve.

## The Salvation Army Is A Denomination

Some will vehemently deny it, the Salvation Army is a denomination. The Salvation Army's General Clarence Wiseman says "the Army is a church and that it is a denomination among denominations." (**The War Cry, "Are We A Church?"**, 1/22/77, page 8,9. Is the Head of the Salvation Army wrong about what his organization is? Our Lord with great

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clarity condemned such (1 Corinthians 1:10; John 17:20-23). The church of our Lord is not a part of anything. It is the whole. It is not a part of a universal church made up of all the denominations. How would you make John 15 and 1 Corinthians 12 teach such about the Lord's church? It John 15 the Lord shows the parts were people not churches. The church of the first century was separate and distinct (1 Corinthians 6:14-18).

## The Salvation Army Practices Wrong Worship

The Salvation Army disregards the Lord's supper, uses mechanical instruments of music and solicits contributions from all, and sometimes daily. The Bible teaches that Jesus instituted His supper. To be observed in His kingdom (Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34). It was to be observed on the first day of the week every week (Acts 20:7). Why does the Army not observe it? The music of the New Testament church was vocal (Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; Romans 15:9; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; James 5:13). Where is the New Testament command, example or necessary inference for using Mechanical instruments of music for worship to God? The collection authorized by the Lord for His church was to be upon the first day of the week according to their prosperity (2 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 8 and 9). We are to do all things as Christ authorizes Colossians 3:17. Where has he authorized the worship of the Army?

## The Salvation Army Has Its Own Creed Book

The Salvation Army has a creed book called "**The Articles of War**". Where in the

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