

~SECT (158)

[Greek, *hai're-sis*]

- The Greek word, *hai're-sis*, from which comes the English word heresy, thus translated means, choice. LXX
- Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the sons of Israel, and you must say to them, As for any man of the house of Israel or some alien resident in Israel who presents his offering, for any of their vows or for any of their voluntary offerings, which they may present to Yehowah for a burnt offering. (Leviticus 22:18)
- Or that which is chosen, hence a body of men separating themselves from others and following their own tenets a sect or party [Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, 1889, p. 16]
- This term is applied to the adherents of the two prominent branches of Judaism, the Pharisees and Sadducees.
- But the High Priest and all those with him, the then existing sect of the Sadducees, rose and became filled with jealousy. (Acts of Apostles 5:17)
- Yet, some of those of the sect of the Pharisees that had believed rose up from their seats and said; It is necessary to circumcise them and charge them to observe the Law of Moses. (Acts of Apostles 15:5)
- That have been previously acquainted with me from the first know, if they but wish to bear witness, that according to the strictest sect of our form of worship I lived a Pharisee. (Acts of Apostles 26:5)
- Non-Christians also called Christianity a sect or the sect of the Nazarenes, possibly viewing it as a break-off from Judaism.
- For we have found this man a pestilent fellow and stirring up seditions among all the Jews throughout the inhabited earth and a spearhead of the sect of the Nazarenes. (Acts of Apostles 24:5)
- But I do admit this to you, that, according to the way that they call a sect, in this manner I am rendering sacred service to the

God of my forefathers, as I believe all the things set forth in the Law and written in the Prophets. (**Acts of Apostles 24:14**)

- But we think it proper to hear from you what your thoughts are, for truly as regards this **sect** it is known to us that everywhere it is spoken against. (**Acts of Apostles 28:22**)
- The founder of Christianity, Jesus Christ, prayed that unity might prevail among his followers.
- In order, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in union with me and I am in union with you, that they also may be in union with us, in order, that the world may believe that you sent me forth. (**John 17:21**)
- And the apostles were vitally interested in preserving the oneness of the Christian congregation.
- Now I exhort you, brothers, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you should all speak in agreement, and that there should not be divisions among you, but that you may be fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought. (**1 Corinthians 1:10**)
- As for you, beloved ones, call to mind the sayings that have been previously spoken by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. (**Jude 1:17**)
- How they used to say to you; In the last time there will be ridiculers, proceeding according to their own desires for ungodly things. (**Jude 1:18**)
- These are the ones that make **separations**, **animalistic men**, **not having spirituality**. (**Jude 1:19**)
- Disunity in belief could give rise to fierce disputing, dissension, and even enmity.
- Because he said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the multitude was split. (**Acts of Apostles 23:7**)
- For **Sadducees** say there is neither resurrection nor angel nor spirit, but the **Pharisees** publicly declare them all. (**Acts of**

Apostles 23:8)

- So there broke out a loud screaming, and some of the scribes of the party of the **Pharisees** rose and began contending fiercely, saying; We find nothing wrong in this man, but if a spirit or an angel spoke to him. (**Acts of Apostles 23:9**)
- Now when the dissension grew great, the military commander became afraid that Paul would be pulled to pieces by them, and he commanded the force of soldiers to go down and snatch him from their midst and bring him into the soldiers quarters. (**Acts of Apostles 23:10**)
- So **sects** were to be avoided, being among the works of the flesh.
- Now the works of the flesh are manifest, and they are fornication, uncleanness, loose conduct. (**Galatians 5:19**)
- Idolatry, practice of spiritism, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, contentions, divisions, **sects**. (**Galatians 5:20**)
- Envies, drunken bouts, revelries, and things like these. As to these things I am forewarning you, the same way as I did forewarn you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom. (**Galatians 5:21**)
- Christians were warned against becoming promoters of **sects** or being led astray by false teachers.
- Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the congregation of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. (**Acts of Apostles 20:28**)
- And their word will spread like gangrene. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of that number. (**2 Timothy 2:17**)
- These very men have deviated from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already occurred, and they are subverting the faith of some. (**2 Timothy 2:18**)
- However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These very ones will quietly bring in destructive **sects** and will disown even the

owner that bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. (2 Peter 2:1)

- In his letter to Titus, the apostle Paul directed that, after being admonished twice, a man who continued promoting a **sect** be rejected, evidently meaning that he be expelled from the congregation. Therefore all **sects** can be defined as, a group of men whose beliefs are counter to the truth and who have lost God's spirit.
- As for a man that promotes a **sect**, reject him after a first and a second admonition. (Titus 3:10)
- Those who refused to become involved in creating divisions within the congregation or in supporting a particular faction would distinguish themselves by their faithful course and give evidence of having God's approval. This is apparently what Paul meant when telling the Corinthians.
- For there must also be **sects** among you, that the persons approved may also become manifest among you. (1 Corinthians 11:19)