



How Many Christians?

How many of each of these types of Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

- **Charismatics:** One to change the bulb and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.
- **Calvinists:** None. God has predestined when the light will be on. Calvinists do not change light bulbs. They simply read the instructions and pray that the light bulb will be the one that has been chosen to be changed.
- **Baptists:** Change???
- **Neo-Orthodox:** No one knows. They can't tell the difference between light and dark.
- **TV Evangelists:** One, but for the message of the light to continue, send in your donation today.
- **Independent Fundamentalists:** Only one, because any more might result in too much cooperation.
- **Liberals:** At least ten, as they need to hold a debate on whether or not the light bulb exists. Even if they can agree upon the existence of the light bulb, they still might not change it in order to keep from alienating those who might use other forms of light.
- **Catholics:** None. They always use candles.
- **Guitar-Playing Worship Leaders:** One, but soon all those around can warm up to its glowing.
- **United Methodists:** This statement was issued: "We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that a light bulb works for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb (or light source, or non-dark resource) and present it next month at our annual light bulb Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long life, and tinted – all of which are equally valid paths of luminescence."
- **Amish:** "what's a light bulb?"
- **Youth Pastors:** Youth pastors aren't around long enough for a light bulb to burn out.
- **Southern Baptists:** 109. Seven on the Light Bulb Task Force Sub-Committee, who

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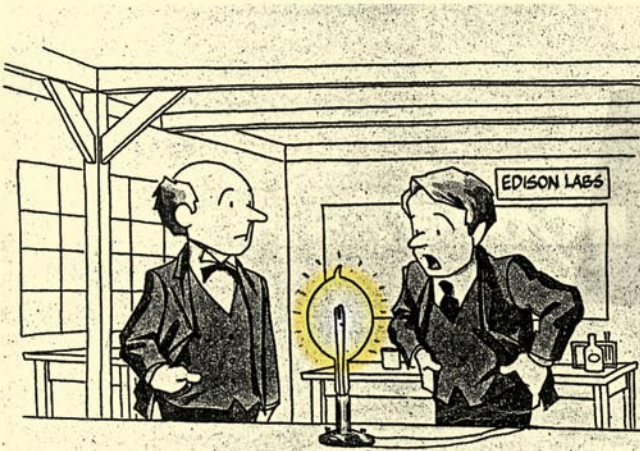
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report to the twelve on the Light Bulb Task Force, appointed by the fifteen on the Trustee Board. Their recommendation is reviewed by the Finance Executive Committee of five, who place it on the agenda of the eighteen member Finance Committee. If they approve, they bring it to the 27 member Church Board, who appoint another twelve member review committee. If they recommend that the church board proceed, a resolution is brought to the Congregational Business Meeting. They appoint another eight member Review Committee. If their report to the next Congregational Business Meeting supports the changing of a light bulb, and the congregation votes in favor, the responsibility to carry out the light bulb change is passed on to the Trustee Board, who in turn appoint a seven member committee to find the best price in new light bulbs. Their recommendation of which hardware store has the best buy must then be reviewed by the twenty-three member Ethics Committee to make certain that this hardware store has no connection to Disneyland. They report back to the Trustee Board who then commissions the trustee in charge of the janitor to ask him to make the change. By then the janitor discovers that one more light bulb has burnt out.

HOEST AND JOHN REINER



"It's wonderful, Tom, but have you given any thought to how many people it will take to *change* this thing?"

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