

# Church: An Acrostic

Intro: Acrostics are often used as an aid to help us remember the points. An acrostic is where certain letters in in each line form a word (or words). The word we are going to use for this lesson is *church*.

## I. C — CHRIST'S

**A. The church belongs to Christ.**

**B. He purchased it, so it belongs to Him.**

1. Mat. 26:28 <sup>“28</sup> For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
2. Acts 20:28 <sup>“28</sup> Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
3. 1 Cor. 6:20 <sup>“20</sup> For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”
4. 1 Pet. 1:18-19 <sup>“18</sup> Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

**C. The church belongs peculiarly to Christ.**

## II. H — HEAD

**A. The church of the Bible has only one head which He shares with no one else.**

**B. Christ is its head.**

1. Eph. 1:22-23 <sup>“22</sup> And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, <sup>23</sup> Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
2. Col. 1:18 <sup>“18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.”

**C. Headship denotes authority.**

1. He has the right to determine what is right and wrong.
2. He has the sole right.
3. Thus, we must act by His authority; Col. 3:17 <sup>“17</sup> And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

## III. U — UNITY

**A. The church is to be found in unity.**

**B. Christ prayed for such; John 17:20-23** <sup>“20</sup> Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; <sup>21</sup> That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. <sup>22</sup> And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

**C. Unity is stressed throughout the Word.**

1. Acts 4:32 <sup>“32</sup> And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.”
2. 1 Cor. 1:10 <sup>“10</sup> Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

3. 1 Cor. 12:13, 20 <sup>13</sup>For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.... <sup>20</sup>But now *are they* many members, yet but one body”

**D. That unity only comes through and is based on the Word.**

1. John 17:20 <sup>20</sup>Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;”
2. 1 Cor. 1:10 <sup>10</sup>Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
  - a. Speak the same thing: 1 Pet. 4:11 <sup>11</sup>If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
  - b. Think the same thing: Phi. 2:5 <sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”
  - c. Same judgment (actions): Col. 3:17 <sup>17</sup>And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

**IV. R — REVEALED**

**A. It was revealed in the prophets—they foretold it.**

1. Isa. 2:2-4 <sup>2</sup>And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. <sup>3</sup>And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”
2. Dan. 2:44 <sup>44</sup>And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”
3. Joel 2:28-32 <sup>28</sup>And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: <sup>29</sup>And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. <sup>30</sup>And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. <sup>31</sup>The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. <sup>32</sup>And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.”
4. Acts 2:16 <sup>16</sup>But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;”

**B. Then revealed through the pages of the New Testament.**

**V. C — CROSS**

**A. Christ paid the purchase price.**

**B. He died on the cross for the sins of the world.**

1. John 3:16 <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
2. Rom. 5:8 <sup>8</sup>But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
3. 2 Cor. 5:21 <sup>21</sup>For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

4. 1 Pet. 2:24 <sup>“24</sup> Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

**C. Song: “I Gave My Life for Thee”**

I gave My life for thee, My precious blood I shed, That thou might'st ransomed be, And quickened from the dead; I gave, I gave My life for thee, What hast thou giv'n for Me?

My Father's house of light, My glory-circled throne, I left, for earthly night, For wand'rings sad and lone; I left, I left it all for thee, Hast thou left aught for Me?

I suffered much for thee, More than thy tongue can tell, Of bitt' rest agony, To rescue thee from hell; I've born, I've born it all for thee, What hast thou borne for Me?

And I have brought to thee, Down from My home above, Salvation full and free, My pardon and My love; I bring, I bring rich gifts to thee, What hast thou brought to Me?

**VI. H — HAVEN**

**A. The church is a haven (a place of safety or refuge) for the saved.**

1. The saved are added to the church; Acts 2:47 <sup>“47</sup> Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
2. It houses the saved; Eph. 5:23 <sup>“23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

**B. It is a haven now and our hope for the future.**

1. Tit. 1:2 <sup>“2</sup> In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”
2. Heb. 6:18 <sup>“18</sup> That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:”
3. That hope is eternal life in heaven.
  - a. Rom. 8:18 <sup>“18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”
  - b. 2 Cor. 5:1, 8 <sup>“1</sup> For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: <sup>3</sup> If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. <sup>5</sup> Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: <sup>7</sup> (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) <sup>8</sup> *We are* confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”
  - c. 1 Pet. 1:3-5 <sup>“3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
  - d. 1 John 3:2 <sup>“2</sup> Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

Conclusion: You can be a member of that blood-bought church and have the hope of forever being with God in heaven.