

Why The Churches Of Christ?

Intro: We appreciate the presence of each one. In this lesson I want us to discuss why you should examine and be a member of the churches of Christ. What makes the churches of Christ different from denominational bodies?

I. BECAUSE CHRIST CAME TO ESTABLISH HIS ONE CHURCH.

- A. **Mat. 16:18** ^{“18} And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
- B. **As such there is only one.**
 - 1. Eph. 4:4 ^{“4} *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”
 - 2. Rom. 12:4-5 ^{“4} For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵ So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”
- C. **The churches of Christ wear His name**
 - 1. We cannot honor Christ and wear another name.
 - a. A wife cannot honor her husband and take someone else’s name.
 - b. Rom. 16:16 ^{“16} Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.”
 - c. The church is the bride of Christ; Eph. 5
 - 2. Only in the name of Christ is there salvation
 - a. Acts 4:12 ^{“12} Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
 - b. There is only one way; John 14:6 ^{“6} Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
- D. **All other religious groups will be destroyed; Mat. 15:13** ^{“13} But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.”

II. RESPECT FOR THE SCRIPTURES

- A. **We will only do those things authorized by God.**
 - 1. Col. 3:17 ^{“17} 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.”
 - 2. Mat. 21:23-27 ^{“23} And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? ²⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? ²⁶ But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. ²⁷ And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.”
- B. **The way God authorizes.**
 - 1. Direct Statements
 - a. There are 11 different kinds of statements (based upon the Greek New Testament).
 - b. Acts 2:38 ^{“38} Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
 - 2. Implication
 - a. Implication is when an action, fact, or teaching is demanded by the Biblical information although it is not specifically stated.

- b. An illustration is that in becoming a Christian, Saul of Tarsus repented of his sins.
 - (1) This is not specifically stated.
 - (2) For any person to become a Christian they must repent of their sins.
 - (3) Saul of Tarsus became a Christian.
 - (4) Thus, I know that Saul of Tarsus repented of his sins.
 - 3. Examples
 - a. Some accounts of action are binding in that they **must** be done and others examples authorize in that they **may** be done.
 - b. An account of an action constitutes an example that we **must** follow when we find the church with general apostolic approval and teaching (authority) practicing whatever it may be that is right within itself and **essential** to Christianity.
- C. **The silence of the Scriptures.**
 - 1. The Bible authorizes by what it says, not by what it does not say.
 - 2. Those things which God does not authorize (is silent about) is thus sinful to do.
 - 3. Heb. 7:14 ^{“14} For *it is* evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe **Moses spake nothing** concerning priesthood.”
 - 4. This is the major point of difference between those who are members of the churches of Christ and denominations.
- D. **We will not add to or take anything from God’s Word.**
 - 1. Deu. 4:2 ^{“2} Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”
 - 2. Pro. 30:6 ^{“6} Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”
 - 3. Rev. 22:18-19 ^{“18} For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”

III. APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES.

- A. **Our Doctrine Is Only According to God’s Word.**
 - 1. 1 Tim. 1:3 ^{“3} As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,”
 - 2. We know there is the doctrine of Christ which will save us.
 - a. 1 Tim. 4:16 ^{“16} Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”
 - b. We also know that any other doctrine comes under the classification of doctrines of devils; 1 Tim. 4:1 ^{“1} Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”
- B. **In Worship to God.**
 - 1. We will do all that God has authorized and nothing more.
 - 2. God has authorized 5 items of worship.
 - a. Singing psalms, hymns, and spirituals songs.
 - b. Prayer to the Father through Christ.
 - c. Partaking of the Lord’s Supper in memory of Christ’s death.
 - d. Preaching the Word.
 - e. Giving into the general treasury as God has prospered us.

C. In our practice of becoming a Christian.

1. We will respect what God has said it takes man to become a Christian.
2. Upon hearing the word preached we must believe.
3. Upon that belief we repent of our sins.
4. We confess our faith in Jesus Christ as being God's Son.
5. We are baptized in water for the forgiveness of our sins.

D. In our practice of a godly life.

1. We respect what God has said concerning our living as a Christian.
2. The godly attitudes we are to possess.
3. The actions we are to do.
4. The actions we are not to do.
5. The type of speech we are to possess.

Conclusion: Since there is only one church (Eph. 4:4 ^{“4} *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*”), and Jesus will save that one church (Eph. 5:23 ^{“23} *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.*”), we need to be a part of that one church. We ask you to consider the churches of Christ: Why? Because we believe that we are that one church of which you read about in the New Testament and thus that one church which Christ will save.