

What Is The Church of Christ?

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INTRODUCTION

Are only the members of the "church of Christ" saved? What does the Bible have to say about this question? And how is the term "Church of Christ" used in the Bible? Just what is the "church of Christ" anyway? And how does a person become a member of the "church of Christ?" (Let's answer these questions today!)

I. WHAT IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

- A. It is the church that "belongs to Jesus Christ!"
 - 1. Mt. 16:18 - " my church "
 - 2. Acts 20:28 - purchased with his own blood." (1 Cor. 6:18-20)
 - 3. Rom. 16:16 - " churches of Christ "
- B. It is the church that "wears His name!"
 - 1. Rom. 7:1-4 - " married to Christ "
 - 2. Eph. 5:22-33 - " I speak concerning Christ and the church."
 - 3. 2 Cor. 11:1-2- " espoused to one husband "
 - 4. Jn. 3:29 - " hath the bride is the bridegroom "(Eph. 3:20-21 / Glory)
- C. It is the church that Christ is "head over!"
 - 1. Eph. 1:19-23 - " head over all things "
 - 2. Eph. 5:22-24 - " subject unto Christ "
 - 3. Col. 1:18 - " head of the body "
- D. It is the ONLY church that you read about in the Bible!
 - 1. There is ONLY "one" church you read about in the Bible!
 - a. Mt. 16:18 - " my church " (Singular)
 - b. Eph. 4:4 - " there is one body "
 - c. 1 Cor. 12:13 - " baptized by one Spirit into one body " = Church (Eph 1:22-23)
 - d. Acts 2:47 - " the Lord added to the church daily "
 - i. Many "different churches" exist today, but ONLY "one" of these churches can be the "one" church that you read about in the Bible!
THERE IS ONLY ONE!
- E. It is the church that is "made up of those who are saved!"
 - 1. Eph. 5:23 " saviour of the body "
 - 2. Acts 2:47 " added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Church doesn't save; Christ saves) (Eph. 5:25-27 / 1 Cor 15:24).

II. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST FROM ABOVE:

- A. How is the term "church of Christ" used in the Bible? ANSWER: It is

used to describe the church that we have just described above!

1. It "belongs to Christ!"
2. It "wears His name!"
3. Christ is "head over" it!
4. The "only one in the Bible!"
5. It is "made up of the saved!"
 - a. When I use the term "church of Christ," I use it in the way that it is used "in the Bible."
 - b. The term "churches of Christ" that is found in Romans 16:16 does not indicate that there is more than "one" "church of Christ." It is speaking of a "plurality of congregations" in different locations. These congregations all believed and practiced the very same things!" (1 Thes. 2:13-14 / 1 Cor 4:15-17)

B. Are only the members of the "church of Christ" saved? ANSWER: It should be obvious by now that the answer to this question is "YES!"

1. Do you have to be a member of the church that "belongs to Christ?" YES
2. Do you have to be a member of the church that "wears His name?" YES
3. Do you have to be a member of the church that "Christ is head over?" YES
4. Do you have to be a member of the "one" church that you read about in the Bible? YES
 - a. (Remember that there is ONLY "one" church that you read about in the Bible!)
5. Do you have to be a member of the church that is "made up of the saved?" YES
 - a. If Jesus is the "saviour of the body" and the body is "the church," then it follows that you MUST be a member of the "one body" that you read about in the Bible, which is the "church of Christ."
 - b. Remember: "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47)

C. How does a person become a member of the "church of Christ?" ANSWER: In the same way in which people became members of the "church that you read about in the Bible" for it is the "church of Christ!"

1. Let's look at some examples from the Bible:
 - a. Acts 2:36-41 and verse 47 (Belief, Repentance, and Baptism)
 - b. Acts 8:12-13 (Belief and Baptism / Mk. 16:16)
 - c. Acts 8:35-39 (Belief, Confession, and Baptism)
2. Since the "church of Christ" is the very same church today, then the requirements are the very same as we read in the Bible."

- a. Belief in Christ Jn. 3:16 / Jn. 8:24
 - b. Repentance Lk. 13:3 / Acts 17:30
 - c. Confession of Christ Mt. 10:32 / Rom 10:10
 - d. Baptism into Christ Gal. 3:27 / Mk. 16:16
3. Are you a member of the "church of Christ?" This is the only church that we read about in the Bible and it is the church that you MUST be a member of in order "to be saved!"