

Is Your Church Wholly Following The Bible?

(Please study all Scriptures and their context. King James Version used unless otherwise noted)

There are many different churches in the world today, yet the Bible only speaks of **one!** Jesus promised to build **only one** church (Matthew 16:18). Paul declares the **oneness** of the church (Ephesians 4:4 cp. 1:22, 23; I Corinthians 12:13, 27, 28, etc.). Christ is the Foundation, the Builder, the Head, and the Saviour of the **one true church** (I Corinthians 3:11; Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:13-18; 5:23). All the different churches today claim to be of that one church, but this cannot be! The church that Jesus built and someday will receive into glory (Ephesians 5:25-27) is not divided (made into denominations)! Jesus prayed for **unity** (John 17:20, 21) and condemns division (Matthew 12:25 cp. I Corinthians 1:10, 13).

I have talked with many who say that their preacher or church goes right by the Bible. No matter what church they are members of they all say they are following the Bible. This cannot be, for if they all were truly doing so, they all would be teaching and practicing the same thing (cp. I Corinthians 4:17). There is one God, one Lord, one Spirit, one body (church), and one faith (Ephesians 4:4-6). Just as there is one God there is only **one** true church and only **one** saving faith, but men have come up many different faiths and churches over the years.

Many man made churches have a creed book, church manual, etc. If they are following the Bible why have such? If it contains more than the Bible it contains too much. If it contains less than the Bible it contains too little. And if it contains the same as the Bible why have it? Our plea and desire is for all people to follow nothing but the Bible in religion: Speak where the Bible speaks, be silent where the Bible is silent, call Bible things by Bible names, and do Bible things in Bible ways. How can we go wrong if we all do that? Can you imagine how good it would be if all who believe in God were truly one? Are you working to fulfill the Lord's prayer of unity (John 17:20, 21) by being certain that you are truly following nothing but the Bible in religion?

The atheist is correct whenever he sees all the division in the so called Christian world and says **this cannot be right**. The atheist recognizes the fact that **IF** all were truly following the **same Bible**, all would be teaching and practicing the very same thing. Therefore, all would truly be of that **one true church** that you read about in the Bible. Only God knows how many atheists have been made because of all the division. Jesus knew it would be so and therefore

prayed: "That they all may be one: ... that the world may believe" (John 17:21).

Every person has the God given responsibility to be sure that what they believe and practice in religion is indeed from God. We must not believe what the preachers say without checking it out thoroughly with what the Bible actually says (I John 4:1). We are to: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21). We do so by "searching the Scriptures" (cp. Acts 17:11). We must be certain that we are truly following the Bible by examining ourselves (I Corinthians 13:5).

We are forewarned by God that there are many false teachers in the world and will lead many astray (II Peter 2:1-3; I John 4:1; Matthew 7:13-23; Acts 20:28-30, etc.). If we allow men to deceive us into believing things that are not in the Bible we will be lost (Matthew 15:9-14; Colossians 2:18). We must be ever watchful (I Peter 5:8) and search the Scriptures to be sure we are being taught correctly (Acts 17:11). We must keep the Scriptures in their proper context and apply only that which applies to us in this age (II Timothy 2:15).

Following (on the reverse side) is a list of questions for you to consider. Verses are given so that you can plainly see what God teaches. A column is provided for you to answer whether your church practices what the Bible says – what God wants. If we expect to please God we must always be honest (Luke 8:15) in our study of His word (II Timothy 2:15) and in examining ourselves (II Corinthians 13:5).

If you have any questions or comments about anything in this paper I would love to hear from you.

-- Perry Sexton

*Speak where the Bible speaks,
be silent where the Bible is silent,
call Bible things by Bible names,
and do Bible things in Bible ways.*

Compare: Col. 3:17; Rev. 22:18,19; 1 Peter 4:11; 2 Peter 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; John 4:24; 8:31,32; Gal. 1:6-9.

Is YOUR Church Truly Following The Bible?

"The churches of Christ salute you" (Rom. 16:16)

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Some serious questions to consider:

{Please consider II Cor. 13:5}

1. Must man obey Jesus in order to be saved?
2. Must we do the works God has given us to do?
3. Must we assemble with the church for religious services?
4. Must we dress modestly?
5. Must we abstain from using alcohol and other drugs?
6. Must we partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday?
7. Is the offering to be made on Sundays?
8. Are we to examine ourselves?
9. Are we to prove all things by the Bible?
10. Must we be honest?
11. Must we handle the word of God correctly?
12. Must we worship according to God's word?
13. Must we worship God in song without instrumental music?
14. Must we have authority for everything we do in religion?
15. Does the Bible teach that most people will be lost?
16. Are many deceived by the many false teachers?
17. Will we obey Jesus if we truly love Him?
18. Is there only one faith from God?
19. Must all of God's people believe the same thing in religion?
20. Must we abide in the doctrine of Christ?
21. Will those who follow false teachers be lost?
22. Does the Bible teach that there are many false teachers?
23. Will many follow the false teachers and be lost?
24. Do many of the false teachers preach for money?
25. Is "faith only" a dead faith?
26. Are the saved simply called Christians?
27. Is division condemned in religion?
28. Will many reject the truth?
29. Must we learn the truth in order to be saved?
30. Must we obey the truth in order to be saved?
31. Are we saved by obedience to the gospel?
32. Is the gospel the power of God unto salvation?
33. Is baptism a part of that gospel that must be obeyed?
34. Are we saved at the point of baptism?
35. Do we contact the blood of Jesus in baptism?
36. Did Jesus shed His blood for the remission of sins?
37. Is baptism for the remission of sins?
38. Do false teachers pervert the gospel of Christ?
39. Does the grace of God teach us what we must do?
40. Does the Bible teach we cannot know when Jesus will come?

What does your church believe?	What God's Word teaches:	The church of Christ believes:
1.) ? ____	Heb. 5:9	Yes
2.) ? ____	Rev. 20:12,13	Yes
3.) ? ____	Heb. 10:25	Yes
4.) ? ____	I Tim. 2:9	Yes
5.) ? ____	I Cor. 6:9, 10	Yes
6.) ? ____	Acts 20:7	Yes
7.) ? ____	I Cor. 16:1, 2	Yes
8.) ? ____	II Cor. 13:5	Yes
9.) ? ____	I Thess. 5:21	Yes
10.) ? ____	Luke 8:15	Yes
11.) ? ____	II Tim. 2:15	Yes
12.) ? ____	John 4:24	Yes
13.) ? ____	Eph. 5:19	Yes
14.) ? ____	Col. 3:16, 17	Yes
15.) ? ____	Matt. 7:13-23	Yes
16.) ? ____	II Pet. 2:1-3	Yes
17.) ? ____	John 14:15, 21-24	Yes
18.) ? ____	Eph. 4:5	Yes
19.) ? ____	John 17:21, I Cor. 1:10	Yes
20.) ? ____	II John 9	Yes
21.) ? ____	Matt. 15:14	Yes
22.) ? ____	I John 4:1	Yes
23.) ? ____	II Pet. 2:1-3	Yes
24.) ? ____	II Pet.2:1-3	Yes
25.) ? ____	James 2:24, 26	Yes
26.) ? ____	Acts 11:26	Yes
27.) ? ____	I Cor. 1:10, 13	Yes
28.) ? ____	II Tim. 4:2-4	Yes
29.) ? ____	John 8:31, 32	Yes
30.) ? ____	II Thess. 1:8	Yes
31.) ? ____	I Peter 1:22, 23	Yes
32.) ? ____	Rom. 1:16	Yes
33.) ? ____	Mark 16:15, 16	Yes
34.) ? ____	I Peter 3:21	Yes
35.) ? ____	Rom.6:3; Jn. 19:33, 34	Yes
36.) ? ____	Matt. 26:28	Yes
37.) ? ____	Acts 2:38; 22:16	Yes
38.) ? ____	Gal. 1:6-9	Yes
39.) ? ____	Titus 2:11, 12	Yes
40.) ? ____	Matt. 24:36ff	Yes