

Dear reader, we are very concerned for you, your family and the salvation of all. This is the reason we ask you to honestly consider the question on the front and what the Bible has to say about **division**. Are you willing to do as God says through the apostle Paul? “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates” (2 Corinthians 13:5)?

We all must be willing to examine ourselves: our lives and our religion in order to determine if we are doing God’s will; to know if we are in the one and only right way (Matthew 7:13-23). We must examine ourselves by the Word of God, for by the Word of God we shall all be judged some day (John 12:48; Revelation 20:12-15).

We, the church of Christ, examine ourselves and our doctrine (following God’s Word) and we are willing to be examined by you. This is so because our religion is entirely based upon the Word of God. Our plea is for all religious people to truly follow the Bible in all things. Yes, I know, almost every religious group claims to “go right by the Bible.” But if this is true, why then is there so much religious division? **If all were truly following the Bible then there should be no division (cp. 1 Corinthians 1:10,13)!** The question is: Are we truly following the Bible in all things?

If one million contractors were given the same detailed blueprint for a house for each contractor to build and if all truly followed that same blueprint, would not the house built by each of the contractors be exactly the same? **Yes, in every detail.** And if the houses were not the same, then it would be

obvious someone(s) did not follow the blueprint. It may be that some misunderstood some details, or decided their way was better, or substituted an item. Such has gone on in religion and is still going on in full force (cp. 2 Timothy 3:13). We are warned by our loving God of the many false teachers in the world: 1 John 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Matthew 7:15; 15:9,13,14. Since Jesus built His one church (Matthew 16:18) men have changed names, doctrines and perverted the gospel of Christ in many ways (cp. Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Timothy 3:13).

**Friends, Satan uses religion to deceive people:** “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14). Therefore, we must “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” (1 Peter 5:8). In religion we are to: “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21). We do this by book, chapter, and verse. We must have authority from God, His Word, for everything we do in religion (Colossians 3:17). Act by faith (Romans 10:17 cp. Hebrews chapter 11).

#### **Let Us Examine Some Points Of Our Religion By God’s Word**

What is the name of the church where you attend? Can you find it in the Bible as a designation of the church which Jesus built? Denominational preachers say the name is not important (in order to try to justify the churches men have established), but this is seen to be false in every realm! For example, ask your preacher to put his house or his paycheck in your name. Wives, ask your husband if you can wear some other

man’s last name. Names have meaning and give honor. Jesus died for His church (Acts 20:28). Jesus is pictured as the husband to the church (John 3:29). Jesus the Christ is the Head of His church (Ephesians 1:22,23; 5:23-27). Therefore, we must give honor to Christ by wearing His name as His church and as His people (Romans 16:16; Acts 11:26).

**Read Acts 4:12, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”** Do you agree with God that names are important? Most denominational names in no way give honor to Christ, but rather rob Jesus of the honor that belongs to Him. This honor does not belong to some man, or system of men! Are YOU robbing Jesus of His deserved honor?

#### **Let Us (You And Me) Compare Our Doctrine With God’s Word**

Doctrine, or belief, is very important: “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9). You can see that our salvation is at stake!

**If we are truly following God in all things:** (1.) We would be able to turn in a reliable translation of the Bible and by using the Bible correctly, show point after point what we believe and practice (2 Timothy 2:15); (2.) We would have no need for church manuals, disciplines, catechisms, etc.; (3.) Nor would we rewrite and print our own Bibles as some do.

There are many points we should consider concerning the church of which we are a member, such as:

1. **Who** started the church I attend? The Bible answer is our (the church of Christ) answer: Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16. Denominational people cannot say this in truth because men started all denominations.
2. **Where** and **when** did this church begin? Our answer: Acts 1 & 2, in Jerusalem as prophesied in Isaiah 2:1-3.
3. **Who** is the head of the church of which I am a member? Our answer: Ephesians 1:22,23. Not some council of men as in the denominations. We follow Christ wholly.
4. **What** is our church’s creed? Our answer is Christ, we follow His Word: The faith: Jude 3; Romans 1:5, but many do not (cp. Matthew 7:13,14; 15:9,14).
5. **Is** our church’s worship according to the pattern of the New Testament? Yes, the church of Christ today follows the same pattern: The New Testament. See John 4:24; Colossians 3:17 and below.
6. **Is** our church’s plan of salvation according to the teachings of the Savior, and as seen in the conversion accounts in the book of Acts? Yes. See below.

**Only one church meets these above standards!** This is the one church which Jesus built and the only church you can read of in the Bible. **I speak these things for love of your soul.** We invite you to investigate the church of Christ using your Bible. **Jesus built His church for you who will come to Him in truth** (Matthew 11:28-30 cp. John 14:6).

## Denominationalism Is Sinful

The Savior prayed for unity (John 17:20,21). Denominationalism is division. This division is contrary to the Lord's prayer above, and to God's will. The churches of men are **enemies** to the Lord and His church. God made it very plain through the pen of the apostle Paul: "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" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Not long after Jesus established His one church upon the earth, men began dividing (1 Corinthians 1:11,12). But God condemned this division (v.10,13). In process of time some "departed from the faith" and went into error (1 Timothy 4:1ff) which brought about the Roman Catholic Church. Then in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century the Reformation Movement brought about the Protestant denominations and they have been dividing ever since! It is shameful, sinful, and damnable! **Denominationalism is not of God, but the evil work of misguided men.**

In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century some men came about seeking nothing but the Bible in religion, and thus was born the Restoration Movement. **The plea was and still is: "Speak where the Bible speaks; be silent where the Bible is silent"** (cp. Colossians 3:17; John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 22:18,19, etc.).

**Do you have the love of God to step forward and follow nothing but God's Word in all religious matters???** It is the ONLY WAY (Matthew 7:13-27)! We are calling people back to the Bible: The church

belongs to Christ; it is His doctrine we must follow in all things (John 12:48). Doctrine is very important as you can see in 2 John 9. The Bible is from God, we must not change any of it (Revelation 22:18,19)!

### The Church Of The Bible Is Identified In Part By The Five Acts Of Worship

The New Testament church observed the following acts of worship, therefore, being the church of Christ today we observe the same acts of worship. Please study these Scriptures.

- ✓ **Sing** praises unto God (Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16,17; 1 Corinthians 14:15). Sing without mechanical instruments of music. {Send for free tract}
- ✓ **Pray** to God the Father (Matthew 6:9; 26:26; 1 Timothy 2:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17). We are to pray in the name of Jesus (John 15:16).
- ✓ **Give** an offering to God (1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7).
- ✓ **Partake of the Lord's Supper** (Matthew 26:26-30). This is to be done every Lord's Day (Sunday) like all the other acts are to be done (Acts 20:7). It is a memorial to remember the Lord's death (1 Corinthians 11:26).
- ✓ **Preach the Word** (Acts 20:7; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Mark 16:15,16; Romans 1:15,16). Those who do not accept and obey God's Word will be lost forever and ever (2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 ). To reject the Word of God in any point is to reject God and Christ (John 12:48-50).

### The Church Of The Bible Is Identified In Part By The Plan Of Salvation

Jesus tells us plainly what man must do to be saved. Furthermore, God shows us plainly by example what others did. Please consider these steps of obeying the gospel of Christ. The first verse or verses after each step is the command or statement, and the verse or verses after **cp.** are examples:

- ✓ **Hear:** Mark 16:15,16; Romans 10:17 **cp.** Acts 2:37; 4:4.
- ✓ **Believe:** Mark 16:15; Hebrews 11:6 **cp.** Acts 4:4; 8:12,13.
- ✓ **Repent:** Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30,31; 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 2:38 **cp.** Acts 19:19, an act of repentance (read context).
- ✓ **Confess Jesus:** Matthew 10:32,33; Romans 10:9,10 **cp.** Acts 8:37.
- ✓ **Be baptized:** Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15,16; Romans 6:3ff; Galatians 3:26,27; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38 **cp.** v.41; 8:12,13,38; 10:48; 16:15,33; 19:5. **One is saved at the point of scriptural baptism and is thus added to the Lord's church** (Acts 2:38,41,47).

**I leave you with this question: Why would anyone want to be a member of a church or religious group that you cannot read about in the Bible? ♥**

For more articles on the church you read of in the Bible and the salvation of your soul, see *Words of Life* bulletin at [www.mission-usa.org](http://www.mission-usa.org)  
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Compliments of  
*"The churches of Christ"*  
(Romans 16:16)



**Are You A  
Baptist,  
Jehovah's Witness,  
Methodist, Lutheran,  
Seventh Day Adventist,  
Presbyterian, Catholic,  
Mormon, Pentecostal,  
etc., etc.?**

By Perry Sexton