

Do You Belong to the Church of the Bible?

A Biblical Examination of Christ's Church

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Introduction

Across the world there are thousands of churches, denominations, and religious organizations. Many teach conflicting doctrines, practice different forms of worship, and wear different names.

This raises an important question:

Does it matter which church I belong to?

Some say, "One church is as good as another."

But is that what the Bible teaches?

If Jesus established only one church, then every sincere person should desire to belong to **that** church.

This study is not about defending a denomination. It is about asking a simple question:

Do I belong to the church we read about in the New Testament?

Christ Built Only One Church

Jesus declared:

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

Notice several important truths:

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- Jesus said **My church**.
- He promised to build it.
- It belongs to Him.

The church is not man's invention—it is Christ's.

There Is One Body

Paul wrote:

"There is **one body** and one Spirit..."

Ephesians 4:4

What is the body?

Paul answers:

"He is the head of the body, the church."

Colossians 1:18

The Bible teaches:

- One body
 - One church
 - One Head—Jesus Christ
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Christ Purchased the Church

Paul reminded the Ephesian elders:

"...to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood."

Acts 20:28

The church cost Jesus His life.

If Christ purchased it with His blood, should we not seek to belong to it?

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When Was the Church Established?

Jesus promised to build His church.

The promise became reality on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

Peter preached Christ.

People believed.

They repented.

They were baptized.

Luke records:

"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Acts 2:47

Notice:

They did not join a denomination.

The Lord added them to His church.

How Does One Enter the Church?

The Bible never teaches that a person votes to join the church.

Nor does it teach that a church committee accepts members.

Instead:

One obeys the Gospel.

Peter preached:

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..."

Acts 2:38

When people obeyed,

God added them to His church.

What Name Should the Church Wear?

The New Testament uses several scriptural descriptions:

- church of God (1 Corinthians 1:2)
- churches of Christ (Romans 16:16)
- church of the Lord (Acts 20:28, many translations)
- body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23)

These are descriptions showing ownership, not denominational titles.

The important question is not merely the sign on the building.

The important question is:

Does the congregation belong to Christ?

What Did the First-Century Church Teach?

The early church devoted itself to:

"the apostles' teaching"

Acts 2:42

Everything they believed came from inspired teaching.

Human creeds had no place.

How Did the Church Worship?

The New Testament describes Christians:

Singing

"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs..."

Ephesians 5:19

Prayer

Acts 2:42

The Lord's Supper

Acts 20:7

Giving

1 Corinthians 16:1–2

Preaching

2 Timothy 4:2

These are the acts of worship consistently revealed in Scripture.

Who Is the Head of the Church?

Not a pope.

Not a president.

Not a governing convention.

Scripture plainly states:

"Christ is the head of the church."

Ephesians 5:23

Every congregation should submit to Christ alone.

Does Denomination Matter?

The New Testament never speaks of competing denominations.

Jesus prayed:

"That they may all be one..."

John 17:20–21

Paul urged:

"That all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you..."

1 Corinthians 1:10

God's desire is unity based upon His revealed truth—not organizational division.

Can We Simply Be Christians?

In the New Testament, believers were called:

- Christians (Acts 11:26)
- Saints
- Brethren
- Disciples

The New Testament never records believers identifying themselves by denominational names.

God's people can simply be Christians, striving to follow the pattern revealed in Scripture.

Questions to Consider

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Ask yourself honestly:

- Does my church teach only what the Bible teaches?
- Does it practice New Testament worship?
- Does it follow Christ alone as its Head?
- Does it teach the biblical plan of salvation?
- Is it organized according to the New Testament?
- Could I find my church described in Scripture?

These questions deserve careful and prayerful study.

The Goal Is Restoration

The purpose is not to start another denomination.

The goal is to restore New Testament Christianity.

That means:

- speaking where the Bible speaks,
 - remaining silent where the Bible is silent,
 - following apostolic teaching,
 - and belonging to Christ's church.
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Conclusion

Jesus built one church.

He purchased it with His own blood.

He is its only Head.

Every saved person should desire to belong to the church revealed in the New Testament—not because of tradition, family, or denomination, but because it belongs to Christ.

The invitation is not to join a denomination.

The invitation is to obey the gospel, allow the Lord to add you to His church, and faithfully serve Him according to His Word.

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"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Acts 2:47

Reflection Questions

1. How many churches did Jesus promise to build?
 2. What is the relationship between the body and the church?
 3. How were people added to the church in Acts 2?
 4. What are the scriptural acts of worship practiced by the early church?
 5. Why is Christ the only Head of the church?
 6. Does my congregation follow the pattern revealed in the New Testament?
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Key Scriptures

- Matthew 16:18
 - Acts 2:36–47
 - Acts 20:7
 - Acts 20:28
 - Romans 16:16
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - 1 Corinthians 16:1–2
 - Ephesians 1:22–23
 - Ephesians 4:4–6
 - Ephesians 5:19, 23
 - Colossians 1:18
 - John 17:20–21
 - 2 Timothy 3:16–17
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A Final Invitation

If your sincere desire is to follow Christ, then compare your beliefs and practices with the New Testament. Don't ask, *"What have I always believed?"* Ask, *"What does the Bible teach?"*

God's invitation is not to become part of a religious denomination, but to become a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. When you hear the gospel, believe in Christ, repent of your sins, confess

Him as Lord, and are baptized for the forgiveness of your sins, **the Lord adds you to His church** (Acts 2:38, 47).

May your goal always be to belong—not merely to a church—but to **the church of the Bible**.