

Please grant an introduction to the church of Christ.

We come to you only in the name of Christ, desiring to help you in finding the true way of life, and hoping to be of service to you in every righteous way.

The Bible is the inspired Word of God (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*).

The Bible does not merely contain our teaching-- it ALONE is our teaching.

We pray for the unity of believers in Christ because He did (*John 17:20-21*).

Paul urged Christians to be "of the same mind," and set forth the only basis for unity in *Ephesians 4:1-6*.

The church was:

- Built and paid for by Jesus Christ. *Matthew 16:13-18; Acts 20:28*.
- Built on Christ as the only foundation. *1 Corinthians 3:11*.
- Not built upon Paul, Apollos, Cephas, or any other man. *1 Corinthians 1:12-13*
- Fully established on the first Pentecost after Christ arose from

the dead. *Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Mark 9:1; Acts 2nd chapter*.

In the New Testament, the church is called:

- The temple of God. *1 Corinthians 3:16*.
- The bride of Christ. *Ephesians 5:21-32*.
- The body of Christ. *Colossians 1:24; Ephesians 1:22-23*.
- The kingdom of God's Son. *Colossians 1:13*.
- The house of God. *1 Timothy 3:15*.
- The church. *Ephesians 3:10*.
- The church of God. *1 Corinthians 1:2*.
- The church of the firstborn. *Hebrews 12:23*.
- The church of the Lord. *Acts 20:28*.
- The churches of Christ. *Romans 16:16*.

Members of the church are called:

- Members. *1 Corinthians 12:27*
- Disciples. *Acts 6:1*
- Believers. *Acts 5:14; 2 Corinthians 6:15*
- Saints. *Acts 9:13; Romans 1:7; Philippians 1:1*
- Priests. *1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6*
- Children. *1 John. 3:1-2*
- Christians. *Acts 11:26, 26:28-29; 1 Peter 4:16*

There are three permanent classes of servants in the church:

- Elders, who are bishops. overseers or pastors. Their duty is to oversee and feed the flock. *Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4*.
- Deacons to serve the church. *Acts 6:1-16; 1 Timothy 3:8-13*.
- Evangelists to teach and preach God's word. For their work and qualifications, see *Ephesians 4:11*; books of *1st and 2nd Timothy* and *Titus*.

Humankind did not:

- Purpose the church. *Ephesians 3:10-11*.
- Purchase the church. *Acts 20:28*.
- Build the church. *Matthew 16:18*.
- Name its people. *Acts 11:26; Isaiah 62:2*.
- Add to the church. *Acts 2:47*.
- Give the church its doctrine. *2 John. 9-10; Galatians 1-11*.

The church and body of Christ are:

- The same. *Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 1:24*.

Christ Himself:

- Loved the church. *Ephesians 5:25*.
- Bled for the church. *Acts 20:28*.
- Established the church. *Matthew 16:18*.
- Called the church His. *Matthew 16:18*.

- Added people to the church. **Acts 2:47.**
- Is the head of the church. **Ephesians 5:28; 4:4; 1:22-23.**

In the church are:

- Redemption. **Ephesians 1:7.**
- Forgiveness of sins. **Colossians 1:13-14.**
- Sanctification. **Ephesians 5:25.**
- All spiritual blessings. **Ephesians 1:3.**

In order to get into the church, you must:

- Believe in Christ. **John. 8:24; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 11:6**
- Repent of your sins. **Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30**
- Confess your faith in Christ. **Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37-38**
- Be baptized. **Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 10:48, 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:27**

In new testament times there was:

- One family of God. **Ephesians 3:15.**
- One kingdom of Christ. **Colossians 1:13-14.**
- One body of Christ. **Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4.**
- One bride of Christ. **Romans 7:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-23**
- One church of Christ. **Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4.**

Baptism requires:

- Water. **Acts 10:47.**
- Much water. **John 3:23.**
- Going to the water. **Acts 8:36; Matthew 3:5-6.**
- Going into the water. **Acts 8:38.**
- A burial. **Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12.**
- A planting. **Romans 6:5.**
- A washing. **Acts 22:16.**
- A birth. **John 3:5.**
- A raising out of the water. **Colossians 2:12.**
- A coming out of the water. **Acts 8:39.**

In baptism:

- Sins are washed away. **Acts 22:16.**
- You are saved from sins. **1 Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16.**
- You have remission of sins. **Acts 2:38.**
- You get into Christ. **Galatians 3:27.**
- You get into the church. **Acts 2:37-47**
- You put on Christ. **Galatians 3:27.**
- You obey Christ. **Acts 10:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.**
- You walk in newness of life. **Romans 6:3-5.**

The faithful church must:

- Worship in both spirit and truth. **John 4:23-24**
- Meet upon the first day of the week. **Acts 20:7; Hebrews 10:25.**

- Sing (not play). **Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3-18.**
- Pray. **Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 2:1-2**
- Edify one another. **1 Corinthians 14:15-27.**
- Take the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. **Acts 20:7; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 11:20-32.**
- Give of their means. **1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:7.**

The work of the work of the church is:

- Preaching the gospel. **Mark 16:15; Philippians 4:14-18**
- Edifying itself. **Ephesians 4:11-16**
- Providing for its poor. **Acts 4:34-35, 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 5:16**

The same church:

- Is in your community.
- Is not a denomination in any sense.
- Is faithful to God's word.
- Is ONE in fact and teaching.
- Gains members by obedience to the gospel.
- Has the same freedom from human powers.
- Has the same name for its members.
- Has the same name for the church.

You can know you are a member:

- By obeying as described.
- By following examples in the book of Acts.