

THE EXAMINER



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WHY A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST? - by

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I. Jesus Christ established only one church.

A. There is one body.

1. **Romans 12:4,5:** "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."
2. **1 Corinthians 12:12:** "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."
3. **Ephesians 4:4:** "There is one body ..."
4. **Colossians 3:15:** "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

B. This body is the church.

1. **Ephesians 1:22,23:** "And hath put all things under his (Christ's) feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."
2. **Colossians 1:18:** "And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church ..."

C. In the book of **Matthew, chapter 16**, Jesus Christ stated that he would build his church; not churches! (**Matt. 16:18.**)

II. Every saved person will be in this church.

- A. **Acts 2:47:** "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."
- B. **Ephesians 5:23:** "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."
- C. **Ephesians 5:25:** "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it ..."
- D. Jesus Christ never promised to save any individual of this generation who is not a member of this church.
 1. Question number one: "How does an individual know for certain

that this church is not some Protestant denomination or perhaps even the Catholic Church?"

2. **Answer:** When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, he wrote during the first century about the church which already existed. Paul wrote in **Ephesians 4:4**, "There is one body ..." (Emphasis mine.)
 - a. Paul was not writing about the Lutheran Church because the Lutheran Church was not established until 1530!
 - b. Paul was not writing about the Baptist Church because the Baptist Church was not established until 1611!
 - c. Paul was not writing about the Presbyterian Church because the Presbyterian Church was not established until 1684!
 - d. Paul was not writing about the Methodist Church because the Methodist Church was not established until 1739!
 - e. Paul was not writing about the Episcopal Church because the Episcopal Church was not established until 1789!
 - f. Paul was not writing about the Mormon Church because the Mormon Church was not established until 1830!
 - g. Paul was not writing about the Seventh Day Adventist Church because the Seventh Day Adventist Church was not established until 1831!
 - h. Paul was not writing about the Christian Scientist Church because the Christian Scientist Church was not established until 1879!
 - (1) Today, there are well over 300 Protestant denominations. Certainly not one person would believe that Jesus Christ established them all? Not one Protestant denomination was established until the 16th century!
 - i. The apostle Paul could not have written about the Catholic Church because the Catholic Church was not established until the year 606 A. D.
 - j. Paul could not have written about denominational churches which exist today because denominational churches do not practice everything and teach everything that churches in the New Testament did!
- E. Question number two: "How does a person know for certain that the church which Paul wrote about has always been in existence and is in existence today?"
 1. **Answer:** Daniel, the prophet of God, wrote in the Old Testament

that Jesus Christ would establish his church and that it would never be destroyed! (**Daniel 2:44; 7:14.**) The apostle Paul wrote that the church would give Christ glory throughout all ages. (**Eph. 3:21.**)

F. Question number three: "How can a person know that the church which Paul wrote about is the church of Christ?"

1. **Answer:** Churches of Christ wear the same name which churches in New Testament days wore. (**Romans 16:16.**)
2. Churches of Christ offer the same worship to God which churches in the New Testament offered to God.
 - a. Prayer is offered to God. (**1 Thessalonians 5:17,18.**)
 - b. Preaching occupies a main part of the worship service. (**Acts 20:7.**)
 - c. Members give as they have been prospered. (**1 Corinthians 16:2.**)
 - d. Churches of Christ have the Lord's supper every Sunday. (**Acts 20:7.**)
 - e. Churches of Christ have singing without the use of instrumental music. (**Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.**)
3. Churches of Christ perform the same work which churches in the New Testament performed.
 - a. They maintain worship. (**Acts 20:7.**)
 - b. They preach the word of God by supporting evangelists. (**2 Cor. 11:8.**)
 - c. They aid members of the church who are poor. (**2 Cor. 8 and 9.**)
4. Churches of Christ maintain the same organizational structure which churches in the New Testament maintained.
 - a. As were churches in the New Testament, churches of Christ are composed of three distinct groups: members, deacons, and elders. (**Phil. 1:1.**)
 - b. There is no central agency which regulates the activities of churches of Christ, because in the New Testament each church in each different locality controlled its own affairs.
 - c. No individual or group is recognized as the head of the churches of Christ because Jesus Christ is the only head of the church. (**Col. 1:18.**)

G. Question number four: "How does one become a member of the church of Christ?"


1. **Answer:** The book of Acts teaches that God places people in the

church when they become Christians. (**Acts 2: 47.**)

2. In order for an individual to become a member of the church he must become a Christian.
3. The same process which makes one a Christian makes one a member of the church.

H. Question number five: "How does one become a Christian?"

1. **Answer:** First, he must hear the gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed., (**Rom. 10:17.**)
 - a. After hearing the gospel he must believe the gospel. (**Heb. 11:6.**)
 - b. Next, he must turn away from his sins. (**Acts 3:19.**)
 - c. He must publicly confess his faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. (**Matt. 10:32,33.**)
 - d. He must be baptized for the remission of sin. (**1 Pet. 3:21.**)
 - e. Then he must live righteously until death. (**Rev. 2:10.**) ---- Via **The Gospel Guide Vol 2 1970**



DOES THE LORD KNOW YOU?

MATT. 7:21-23

THE LORD DOESN'T KNOW

- MANY WHO CLAIM TO KNOW HIM - MT. 7:21-23; LK. 13:24-27
- THOSE WHO FAIL TO MAKE PROPER PREPARATION - MT. 25:11,12
- THOSE WHO DENY HIM - MT. 10:33
- THOSE WHO WON'T DO WHAT HE SAYS - LK. 6:46
- THOSE WHO WILL BE ON HIS LEFT HAND - MT. 25:41-46

THE LORD KNOWS THOSE WHO

- ARE HIS - 2 TIM. 2:19
- HEAR & FOLLOW HIM - JO. 10:27,28
- CONFESS HIM - MT. 10:32
- ARE HIS FRIENDS - JO. 15:14
- HAVE NAMES IN BOOK OF LIFE - REV. 3:5
- WILL BE ON HIS RIGHT HAND - MT. 25:34-40
- GOD SAID - ISA. 66:1,2

DO YOU KNOW THE LORD? HOW?

- "HE CAME INTO MY HEART"?
- "HE LIFTED MY BURDEN OF SIN"?
- "HAD PERSONAL EXPERIENCE...?"
- "HE GAVE ME A WONDERFUL FEELING"?
- NOT IF YOU DON'T KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS - 1 JO. 2:3-5
- NOT UNLESS & UNTIL YOU OBEY THE GOSPEL - 2 THESS. 1:7-9

Scripture
Please

TO CLAIM THAT I'M A CHRISTIAN - DOES NOT MAKE ONE A CHRISTIAN - **1 John 5:13** - John Says you can know you have eternal life (a blessing of being found in Him) by that which is written. - Examine yourself in Light of God's Word Not Your FEELING! {JC}