

# The Church of Christ—a Mark That Matters

The nature of the church to which the Lord added his saved people is a mark that matters. Those added were saved, and the saved ones were added: “The Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved (Acts 2:47).” In John 15:5, the Lord said, “I am the vine and you are the branches.” Christ is one; we, the branches, are one with him. The Lord prayed for us all: “That they may all be one (John 17:21).” **In these statements, there is no allowance for a subdivision of denominations.**

The Bible teaching was certain. There was to be *one* foundation of *one* church. Paul taught, “No other foundation can any man lay than that which is laid which is Christ Jesus (I Cor. 3:11).” Peter added, “You are the Christ! (Mt. 16:18);” and “A chosen, precious cornerstone (I Pet. 2:6).” Christ responded, “Upon this rock I will build my church.” Christ laid one foundation and built one church. **Christ’s teaching leaves no room for a subdivision of denominations.**

In order to be saved and added to the church, all Christians follow the same New Testament teaching. When they follow this teaching, they will end up exactly where Christ wants them. “I am the door,” Christ said in John 10:9. “Whoever enters through me will be saved.” In Mt. 7:7 he said, “Knock and it shall be opened.” Christ gave one way and there is no other. Hear the word (Rom. 10:14-15); believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Jno. 3:16, Heb.11:6); confess his name before men (Rom. 10:10, Mt.10:32); repent before it is everlastingly too late (Acts 17:30, II Pet. 3:9); and be buried with Christ in baptism (Acts 2:38, Mk. 16:16). When this is accomplished, we are added to the church of Christ that was established in 29 AD in Jerusalem. **There is nothing in the New Testament about joining or being added to a denomination.**

Once people enter the door to the true church, they find themselves in the household of God. “I am writing you these instructions so that . . . you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth (II Tim. 3:15).” This teaching on one church runs throughout the New Testament. God gave Christ to be head over everything for the **church** which is his **body** in Eph. 1:22. Then he taught that there was one body in Eph. 4:4, and, therefore, one church. In Rom. 8:16-17, Paul tells us we are God’s children and if children, heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ. We are translated into the kingdom of the Son of his love (Col. 1:12). The metaphors *house of God* in Heb 3:1-6 and *bride of Christ* in II Cor. 11:1 and Rev 22:17 further affirm the oneness of the church and the ownership of the church by Christ. The one church—called the body, the family, the kingdom, the house, and the bride of Christ—leaves room for only the church of Christ which he purchased with his own blood. **The idea of many denominations does not fit.**

**The nature of the church requires oneness and unity of all true Christians in the church of Christ.** This is a New Testament mark that matters when identifying the true church that Jesus built. Where are denominations in the Bible? How can we all be one, and at the same time be members of different denominations following different doctrines? If you obey only Christ’s gospel, you will be saved and added to his church and no other.

# The Church of Christ

“The Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved.” Acts 2:47

I am writing you these instructions so that . . . you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth.” I Tim.3:15

“I am the vine and you are the branches.” Jno. 15:5

“That they may all be one.” Jno. 17:21

- The church: Eph.1:22
- The body: Eph.4:4
- The family: Rom.8:12-17
- The kingdom: Col. 2:12
- The house: Heb. 3:1-6
- The bride: II Cor. 11:1; Rev. 22:17

“I am the door.”  
“Knock and it shall be opened.”  
Jno.10: 9; Mt. 7: 7

More Marks that Matter ↓

- N.T. Organization
- N.T. Worship
- N.T. Work
- N.T. Authority

Jerusalem  
AD 29  
Acts 2

“No other foundation can any man lay than that which is laid which is Christ Jesus.” I Cor. 3:11

Be Baptized: Acts 2:38; Mk.16:16

Repent: Acts 17:30; II Pet 3:9

Confess: Rom. 10:10; Mt. 10:32

Believe: Jno. 3:16; Heb. 11:6

Hear: Rom. 10: 14-15

“You are the Christ!”  
“Upon this rock I will build my church.”  
“A chosen, precious cornerstone.” Mt.16:18; I Pet. 2:6

# The Church of Christ—a Mark That Matters

## Questions and Answers

1. The nature of what church is a mark that matters? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the condition of those added to the church (Acts 2:47)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What happens to saved people (Acts 2:47)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In John 15:5, who is the vine? \_\_\_\_\_ Who are the branches? \_\_\_\_\_
5. For what did Jesus pray in John 17:21? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many foundations have been laid (I Cor. 3:11)? \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the one foundation? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many churches did Christ say he would build (Mt. 16:18)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is the door in John 10:9? \_\_\_\_\_ What happens to those who enter? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What happens when we knock at the door? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What are the five steps to be saved and added to the church? 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
10. In Rom. 10:14-15, what does faith come by? \_\_\_\_\_ What does the hearing come by? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who must be sent? \_\_\_\_\_
11. In whom must man believe on in John 3:16? \_\_\_\_\_ In Heb. 11:6? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What happens to people who refuse to confess Jesus before men (Mt. 10:32)? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What result follows confession with the mouth in Rom. 10:10? \_\_\_\_\_
14. How urgent is it that we repent (Acts 17:30 and II Pet. 3:9)? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What are the results of baptism in Mk. 16:16 and Acts 2:38? \_\_\_\_\_
16. What is the household of God called in II Tim. 3:15? \_\_\_\_\_
17. What is the church called in Eph. 1:22? \_\_\_\_\_
18. How many are there of the following: Household of God? \_\_\_\_\_ Church? \_\_\_\_\_  
Body? \_\_\_\_\_ Kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_ Bride of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
19. All true Christians are one and unified in what church? \_\_\_\_\_