



## Marks that Establish God's True Religious Body

The question that should be upon the mind of every seeker of heaven is this — *“of all the multitude of churches (Catholic & Protestant) in the world, which one does God authorize to exist today?”* Consider if you will what Jesus commissioned His twelve Apostles to do; *“Thus it is written and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things”* (Luke 24:46-48). In 30AD, on Pentecost, the church that Jesus said He would build has its beginnings as the Apostles received power from the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel (Acts 2). That day, 3,000 souls made the decision to put Christ on in baptism and God **ADDED** them to the church (Acts 2:47).

As the Apostles obeyed Jesus in taking the good news into all nations and establishing His church, did they establish twelve different churches with each teaching different doctrines? Or did they establish only one church—Christ's church—the only church authorized by God to teach one and the same doctrine everywhere it was established? Even Paul, when being added among the Apostles by Christ, taught the same doctrine as the original twelve, and established the same church. We have this record from Paul when the Corinthians began dividing themselves into separate groups, *“I beseech you, brethren, by the name of (authority of) 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). This warning by Paul should alarm us today, not to be divided into different religious groups; but instead to be looking for the one true church as found in the first century.

Jesus prayed that ALL of His followers would be united (John 17:20-21), as He and the Father are united. The only way for us to receive a heavenly home is by obeying our Lord and stop dividing ourselves by creeds and doctrines of men. God has instructed us to put everything to the test (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Mark 4:24; Luke 8:18). Paul said there is “ONE” body, which is the church (Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Because the devil wants us as his own, he has tempted men into establishing their own doctrines and churches to confuse us. How can we know which church is right and which is not? Simply by following the pattern set down by God in His Word (Bible).

Why Be Added to the church of Christ by God?

1. Because Jesus said He would build His “church” (singular) (Matthew 16:18).
2. Because Jesus is the only founder of His church (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20). He is the ONLY head of His church.
3. Because Jesus is the only man who shed His blood for His church (Acts 20:28).
4. Because Christ's church was founded in the city of Jerusalem according to prophecy (Isaiah 2:2-3; Micah 4:1-2; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 2).
5. Because any church not founded by Jesus Christ, not established in 30AD on Pentecost in the city of Jerusalem is not the one true church of the New Testament, and therefore is a counterfeit.
6. Because it belongs to Christ and is therefore the “church of Christ.” Christ is its head. Christ is its founder. Christ shed His blood for the church – therefore, should His name not be on it?
7. Because it is the “body of Christ” as a living organism, each and every member (true New Testament Christian), has a part to play in maintaining its function (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23).
8. Because it does not self exalt itself with titles such as Pastor, Reverend or Father.
9. Because its headquarters are found in heaven alone.
10. Because its congregations are autonomous.
11. Because its leadership is among the men of each congregation who meet God's qualifications (1 Timothy 3:1-13).
12. Because its only creed is the New Testament
13. Because its only allegiance is Christ.
14. Because it has no clergy, because all Christians are ministers.
15. Because every member is a saint and a priest
16. Because the church that Jesus built is “anti” denominational in that it stands opposed to denominationalism which advocates the sin of division (Galatians 5:19-21).
17. Because it gives book, chapter and verse for everything that it teaches so that all may know for certain whether they are receiving the truth or error.

*Compliments of:*

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the Scriptures?  
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# Why So Many Churches?



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