

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” - Matt. 16:18.

Christ Built His Church

It is abundantly obvious from the above Scripture that Jesus Christ promised to build His church. Today, we look out on the religious landscape of so-called “Christianity” and see *hundreds* of churches of every kind, form, and variety. Are these all churches belonging to Christ?

Then we hear the slogan “**Join the church of your choice!**” and we feel free to select a church much like we would select a restaurant. Is this what God intended?

The biblical truth of the matter is that Jesus Christ **did** build His church and it has *identifying marks* which are easily recognizable:

1. **It wears His Name:** “*church of Christ*” (see Rom. 16:16).
2. **It has terms of entrance:** faith, repentance, confession and baptism (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Lk. 13:3).
3. **The Lord adds the saved to it,** Acts 2:47.
4. **It has organization:** bishops, deacons and saints, Phil. 1:1.
5. **It has work:** evangelism, edification, benevolence, Eph. 4:11-12.
6. **It has five acts of worship:** singing, praying, teaching *any time* (Acts 2:42; Eph. 5:19); the Lord’s Supper and financial giving *only on the Lord’s Day*, Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

Any church which is lacking any of these attributes is *insufficient*. Any church which adds anything to these attributes is *unbiblical*. Of the hundreds of so-called “churches” in the world today, it is easy to see that man has made these churches and that they differ from the biblical pattern. These churches may please men, but they do not please God and do not constitute the church belonging to Christ.

If We Are The Church Of Christ ...

- **... then we will follow Jesus.** “*And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers*” (Jn. 10:4-5).
- **... then we will run from “thieves.”** “*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly*” (Jn. 10:10). “Thieves” are any men who seek to take us away from Jesus and His teaching.
- **... then we will seek the lost.** “*What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?*” (Lk.15:4). In this figure, the *lost sheep* are those who are outside of the Lord’s church, or flock, and in soul’s danger.
- **... then we will build up one another.** “*For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*” (Eph. 4:12). “Edify” means to “build up” and it is done by biblical instruction, correction, and repetition. Preachers, teachers, and elders do this work.
- **... then we will care for our own.** “*If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows*” (1 Tim. 5:16).

If you are looking for a church that truly belongs to Christ, then study these biblical truths, compare them to the churches today, and pick the one that is God-honoring, obedient and structured after the pattern set forth by Jesus in His New Testament.