

Some Bible “Excepts”

by Bill Crews

THE NECESSITY OF CONTENDING LAWFULLY: “*And if also a man contend in the games, he is not crowned, **except** he have contended lawfully*” (2 Timothy 2:5). The Christian is likened to a soldier (verse 4) and to a contestant in the athletic games (verse 5). Like the soldier he must be dedicated and loyal. Like the contestant in the games, he must abide by the rules that govern the “race.”

For other “**except**” passages dealing with things that are necessary for our salvation see Matthew 6:15; John 15:4, 6; 1 Corinthians 9:16; James 2:17; Revelation 2:2, 22; 3:3.

Ten Reasons Why You Should Be A Member Of The Church of Christ

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1. **You can read about the church of Christ in the Bible.**
 - 1.1. Matthew 16:18; Romans 16:16; Ephesians 4:4.
 - 1.2. No religious denominations are found in the Bible.
2. **The church of Christ accepts no word but the word of Christ.**
 - 2.1. 2 John 9; Galatians 1:8-9; 1 Peter 4:11.
 - 2.2. No creeds, manuals, or catechisms are allowed in addition to the Bible.
3. **The church of Christ accepts only Christ as its Head.**
 - 3.1. Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:18.
 - 3.2. Human heads on earth violate the true headship of Christ.
4. **The church of Christ is organized just like the church in the New Testament.**
 - 4.1. Ephesians 4:11; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5; Acts 20:17, 28.
 - 4.2. Human hierarchy is unknown in the New Testament.
5. **The church of Christ calls Bible things by Bible names.**
 - 5.1. “*Lord’s Day*” – not “Christian Sabbath,” Revelation 1:10; 1 Corinthians 16:2.
 - 5.2. “*Preacher*” or “*evangelist*” – not “Reverend” or “Pastor.”
6. **The church of Christ conducts simple worship like the church in the New Testament.**
 - 6.1. Acts 2:42; Ephesians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.
 - 6.2. Ritualistic or entertaining programs appeal to human vanity but are not biblical.
7. **The church of Christ emphasizes Christ’s plea for religious unity.**
 - 7.1. John 17:20-21; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13.
 - 7.2. Modern defenses of religious diversity are not biblical.
8. **The church of Christ teaches Christ’s strict moral standards.**
 - 8.1. Matthew 5:8; 7:13-14; 1 Timothy 5:22.
 - 8.2. The laxity of the world or religious groups does not make dancing, social drinking, drugs, etc. right!
9. **The church of Christ preaches God’s simple plan of salvation.**
 - 9.1. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10.
 - 9.2. The plan has not been changed since the Great Commission was given by Christ.
10. **This the only body to be delivered up to God at the judgment.**
 - 10.1. 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; 2 Corinthians 5:1; 2 Peter 3:10-11.
 - 10.2. Other plants not planted by God will be rooted up, Matthew 15:13.

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