

Why are There so Many Churches and Which is the Right One?

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Let us pray:

Father God, thank you for this opportunity to share your truth. Lord, I thank you also for the wisdom of your Word and for all who you would have read this article, that their lives would be placed before their mirror and changes would be made in accordance to your Word. I pray in your majestic name, the Name of Jesus.

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That all may be one, as thou, Father art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one as we are one: I in them and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and thou hast loved them as thou hast loved me.

Father, I will that they also whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou has given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I hath known thee and these hath known that thou hast sent me.

And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it; that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17: 17-20)

In today's world many find themselves confused and with little knowledge of the truth. They experiment with different cults and religion. Some ask questions like the following:

"My wife and I have always attended different churches. But now we have children and we are looking for a church we can attend together. We have been told to choose the one that feels right to us. But with there being so many churches, how can we know what's right?"

"I've been a member of a number of churches in my lifetime. Some big and some small—you name it. They all believe in the same God, but worship in a lot of different ways. Does it really matter?"

"Growing up, my friends and I did everything together except church. I have always wondered, why not? If we believe in the same God, why are there so many different churches?"

"With all the different religions and churches represented in the military, a chaplain who holds one service where we can all come together for worship makes it simple. I mean, isn't that just like the church we read about in the Bible?"

"I heard a preacher say once that all Christian churches are okay even if they do not all teach the same things. How can that be?"

"I have always been confused by that. Have you ever wondered why there are so many different churches and practices and beliefs?"

"Is it possible that every denomination is right?"
Does God approve of this kind of division and confusion, and does it even really matter? Why are there so many different churches? Does it matter to God? Is He pleased with the current situation on earth today?

Not to further complicate the situation, let us take a look at what Jesus said in Matthew 16:15-18: "He said unto them, But whom say you that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered and said unto Peter, 'Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto you, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock (this statement of truth - Thou art the Christ the Son of the Living God) I will build my Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

If your church does not recognize Jesus as the Christ (The anointed one, the

Messiah, the Son of the Living God) then you must rethink your reason for attending your place of worship. This is the foundation that Jesus Christ laid for building His church and we cannot deviated from it. Any deviation from this truth is a heretical doctrine. All heretical doctrines have their roots in theories that are in contrast with the truth that is taught in the infallible Word of God (The Holy Bible).

I want you to imagine that there is such a thing as a time machine, and I want you to imagine that you can get into this time machine and travel back to the first century to the day that the Lord established His church. You get out and you see all of these people: gladly receiving the Word as it is preached by Peter, repenting, and turning their lives over to Christ, about 3,000 of them. You walk up to one of them and you ask him, "Sir, I would like to know what denomination did you just become a part of?" What would he say? He would probably say, "I don't know what you are talking about." "I mean, what church did you become part of? "Was it the Methodist, or Catholic, or the Baptist? Which one was it?" He'd say, "Sir, I don't know what you are talking about. I have never heard of a denomination. "I have never heard of these groups you're discussing. All I know is that I repented and now I accept Jesus as the Messiah. I am now part of the church that belongs to Jesus Christ." "The church of Christ, the Son of the Living God." That would be exactly right. Because there was only one. Acts 2:47 says, "The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved." And this fits perfectly with what Jesus promised in Matthew 16:18. He promised "...upon this rock **I will build My church.**"

The apostle Paul later echoes the sentiment of the one church as he is speaking to the elders in Ephesus. He tells them to "Shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). In the book of Ephesians we are told that God has put all things under Christ's feet and gave Him to be the head over all things

to the church which is His body. And so, the church of Christ and the body of Christ are the same thing. The singularity of the church is nailed down in Ephesians 4:4 when He says "There is one body." When one reads the New Testament he is impressed by the fact that **there existed only one church.** Well, what if someone came along and wanted to start some different divisions of that one church? Different denominations if you will. Would that be okay?

Acts 2:43-44 - "Fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together and had all things common."

Acts 2:46 – "And they continued daily with one accord, a) in the temple, b) and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with c) gladness and singleness of heart."

It was a fearful thing to even imagine the possibility of creating another church. They were all in one accord and had all things in common; they enjoyed the fellowship and followed with singleness of heart (forming one undivided unit).

The Church that Christ establish 2000 years ago is a living mature organization, with Jesus Christ the head and is still growing at a tremendous rate today. The people who belong to this church are people who believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God and He is Christ - the Messiah, the anointed One, who lived amongst us and died on the cross for us. We walk by faith and seek to obey His commandment to love God and our neighbors. We obey His commission to go into all the world and preach the good news of the Gospel with the empowerment of the Holy Ghost and many signs and wonders follow along the way.

Next month we will continue with a timeline of the different churches and denominations that profess Christ and examine why they exist.

Here are some scripture to read and consider before the next article on this subject:

Ephesians 4:16—‘From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.’

Philippians 1:15—‘Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and **strife**; and some also of good will.’

Philippians 2:3—‘Let nothing be done through **strife** or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.’

James 3:14—‘But if ye have bitter envying and **strife** in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.’

James 3:16—‘For where envying and **strife** is, there is confusion and every evil work.’