

17--Why Are You A Member of the Church?

Introduction: What comes to mind when you think of the word “church?” A building? A denomination? A group of people? As we discuss the term “church” in our lesson today we need to agree on the terminology...

I. The “Church” Which Belongs to Christ...

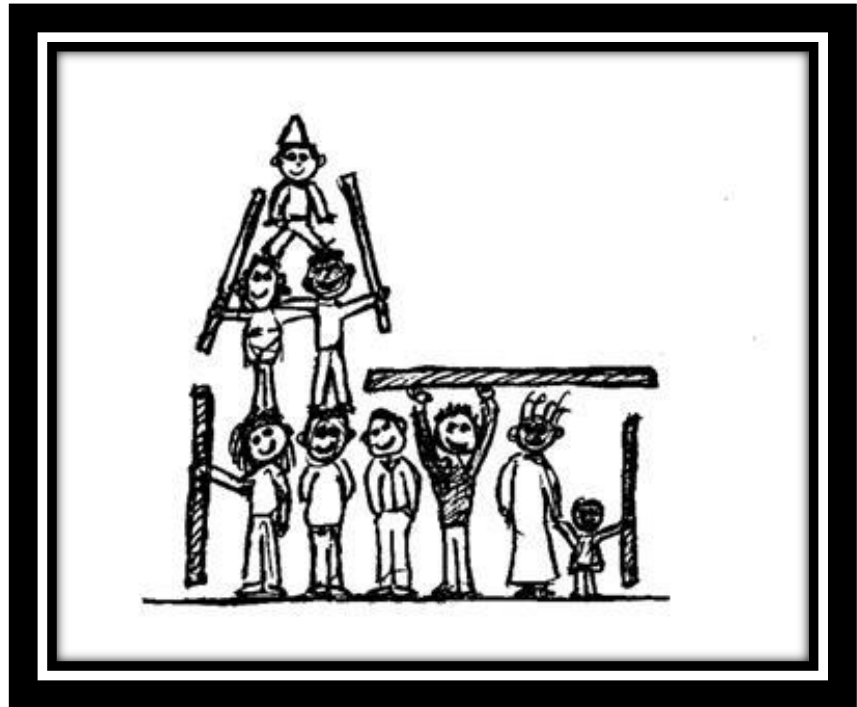
A. Was built by Christ (Matthew 16:18).

B. It is made up of saved people (Acts 2:47; cp. Acts 5:11; 8:4).

C. It was planned by God (Ephesians 3:10-11).

D. It has Christ as its head (Ephesians 1:22-23).

E. It was purchased by Christ’s blood (Acts 20:28).



II. Why I Am NOT A Member of the Church...

A. NOT because my parents were (Galatians 1:13-14).

B. NOT because I like the preacher (1 Corinthians 2:4-5).

C. NOT because the meeting place is nearby (John 8:32).

D. NOT because I like the building (James 1:21).

E. NOT because of its recreational activities (John 6:26-27).

F. NOT because of its youth or large membership (1 Peter 3:20; Acts 19:7).

F. NOT because it has lots of friendly people (John 8:32).

G. These may be primary reasons why some are members of churches today, but they are not the right reasons!

III. Why I AM A Member of the Church...

- A. I heard and believed the gospel—"know assuredly" (Acts 2:36).
- B. As a sinner, I wanted to be saved—just like those on Pentecost (Acts 2:37).
- C. I learned what I must do (Acts 2:38).
- D. I learned this promise was for me (Acts 2:39).
- E. I repented and was baptized (Acts 2:41).
- F. The Lord added me to His church—we don't join anything (Acts 2:47).

Conclusion: If people really understood what the "church of Christ" was, then they wouldn't ask our title question. Instead, we should be asking, "Why am I NOT a member of the church of Christ?"

Acts 2:36-47

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers...

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."