



sermon  
SNAPSHOTS

The Church  
which Belongs to  
*Christ*

*fishers*  
Church of Christ

Thank you for picking up a copy of our Sermon Snapshot! We hope you will use this tool for personal study or an easy to use template when studying with friends and neighbors about important spiritual matters!

In Matthew 16:13-20, we learn that Christ promised to "build" a "church" – *HIS church!* He said the gates of Hades would not prevail against it. He "purchased" it with His own blood (Acts 20:28); and it is the **ONLY** church over which He is head (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4). *I believe this church must be in existence somewhere!* In this lesson, we "search the Scriptures," so that we may identify "The Church Which Belongs to Christ."

Are YOU a member of the "church" which belongs to Christ? If not, then you have not been called by the gospel, for the "church" IS this called group of people! *In other words, if you are not a member, you have not been saved, because the church IS the saved (Acts 2:47)!* There's no time like now to become a member of "The Church Which Belongs to Christ." Why don't you obey the Lord, & be saved right now?

If you would like more information either through CD or download, please visit our website for this sermon and many more. If you would like a personal bible study with our evangelist or Elders please contact us as well!

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The Church Can't Do It All For You!  
Developing a Mature View of the Church

Things In The New Testament Church That I Have Never Seen In The  
New Testament Church

Are You a Christian or a Church-of-Christ?

The Universal and The Local Church

Why I Am A Member of the Church of Christ

Ways to Measure A Church

## What *IS* the church (Greek: ekklesia)?

- + Church of Christ = the “called out” group of people (church) – who belong to (of) – Jesus (Christ)!
- + It is a phrase which describes those people who've been "*called*" by the *gospel of Christ* (**2Thessalonians.2:13-14**)
- + This church is *figuratively* made up of "*living stones*" – those "*called out*" of darkness (**1Peter 2:4-10**)
- + And it is these "people" alone who constitute, or make up, Christ's "church" (**Acts 2:38, 41, and 47**)

## What is the *purpose* of the church?

- + First, consider that the church has been *blood-bought!* (**Acts 20:28**) – *We belong to Christ*
- + We are purchased to be *God's servants*, so that we may "*glorify*" Him (**1Corinthians 6:19-20**)
- + One way we "*glorify God*" is through our day by day service as *individuals* (**1Corinthians 10:31**)
- + We also "*glorify God*" by service as a "*local*" [*i.e., organized*] church (**Philippians 1:1, 9-11**)



## How and why is this church *organized*?

- + The "universal" church has NO organization; only the individual and Christ (**1Peter 2:25**)
- + The only organizational structure is a "local" church (**Acts 9:26-28; 14:23; 1Peter 5:1-3**)
- + “Local” churches are organized for *specific* and *limited* purposes! (**1Tm.5:16**)
- + Those specific purposes are limited benevolence, teaching, and worship (**1Tm.5:16, 17-18; Ac.20:7**)

## What *produces* the pure church of Christ?

- + NOT the creeds of men, *but the Divine will of Jesus Christ!* (**Colossians 2:6-10**)
- + NOT "church" succession, *for the "church" can err!* (**Acts 20:28-30**)
- + Rather, it can ONLY be produced by "*the seed*" (**1Peter 1:23-25**)
- + And we must be content with this “seed” only! (**2Timothy 3:16-17**)

-Lanny Smith

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Sermon Snapshots are designed to improve your personal study life and presentation of spiritual topics to friends & neighbors in a simple and exciting manner!

Hopefully after your reading, you'll want to further enhance your knowledge on the subject and we can provide that through personal study, in-depth sermons on CD, or downloadable content on our website!



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## Times of Service

Sunday Worship: 10 am  
Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

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