

TERMS OF ENTRANCE

To become a member of the church that Jesus built, one must believe that Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24); repent of his sins (Luke 3:13); publicly acknowledge Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10); and be immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins (John 3:5; Acts 2:38).

When one's faith leads him to be immersed into Christ, he is added by Christ to His body, the church (Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

Through obedience to Jesus, one becomes a Christian, a member of the church that Jesus established in the First Century, with every spiritual blessing to be found in fellowship with Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

ETERNAL PURPOSE

The church that Jesus built is the fulfilling of God's eternal purpose of saving man from his sins (Ephesians 3:10-12).

This plan was conceived by God before the world was created (Ephesians 1:4). The Old Testament period was a time of preparation for the church (Daniel 2:44; Galatians 3:23-29; 1 Peter 1:10-12).

At the proper time, Jesus built His church on the foundation of His own Godhood (Matthew 16:16-18). He purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

He is its Saviour (Ephesians 5:23). Christ's church is no "optional extra;" it is made up of all who are being saved by the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 6:3-5; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

DESTINY

Christ will deliver the kingdom (church) to God at the end of time (1 Corinthians 15:24). Faithful members of Christ's body will live in "an eternal house in heaven" (2 Corinthians 5:1)

PLEA FOR UNITY

The church that Jesus built seeks to honour Him by 'working for the unity for which He prayed so fervently and for which He died to secure (John 17:20-21; Ephesians 2:13-22).

By forsaking every precept of men and obeying the pure gospel of Christ, you can be united with others in the one, original, universal body of Christ, without being part of any human denomination.

"There is one body and one Spirit...one hope...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God"

(Ephesians 4:4-6).

A warm welcome awaits you at the
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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And Greenhill Rise
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Telephone (01536) 628862

Meeting

Sundays Worship 10.30am,
Tuesdays Bible Study 7.00pm

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The Church that Jesus Built

*"For no one can lay any
foundation other than the
one already laid, which is
Jesus Christ."*

1 Cor. 3:11

The church that Jesus founded in the First Century was designed to meet the needs of everyone, everywhere in the world, in every age. It was built on the unshakeable foundation of Christ's Diety (Matthew 16:18).

Thus it exists today and is fulfilling its intended purpose.

The church in the New Testament was established according to God's plan before any man-made denominations appeared. It is Jesus' desire that everyone who believes in Him be united in the church which he founded (John 17:20; Ephesians 4:4).

Those seeking to please Jesus above anyone else will be content with the church just as He planned it.

The church that Jesus built is identified by its ...

NAME

Church means "a called-out assembly." The word refers to those whom Jesus has "called out" of the world to follow Him in righteous living (1 Peter 2:9) (Nowhere in the New Testament does "church" refer to a building.)

No proper noun is given as a name for the church in the New Testament. Various terms are used instead to express the relationship it sustains with God and Christ: body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27); church of God (Acts 20:28); churches of Christ (Revelation 21:9); household of God (Ephesians 2:19); temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16,17); etc. All of these terms honour God and are appropriate designations of Christ's church today.

PLACE OF ORIGIN

Jerusalem. After Peter's sermon on Pentecost, 3000 people responded to the gospel message by being baptized (Acts 2:38,41). They were added by Christ to His church that day (Acts 2:47). This marked the church's beginning in Jerusalem, just as the Old Testament prophets had foretold centuries before (Isaiah 2:3; Joel 2:32).

Any religious group originating elsewhere cannot be the church that Jesus built.

TIME OF ORIGIN

Day of Pentecost, 33 A.D. John's preaching concerning the coming kingdom (church) began during the 15th year of Tiberious Caesar's reign (Luke 3:1), i.e., 29 A.D.

As Jesus' ministry began after John's and lasted three years, the beginning date for the church would be around 33 A.D. Any religious group originating since that time cannot be the church that Jesus built.

MISSION

To evangelize the entire world. Jesus' parting words were: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19,20).

Implicitly, Jesus commands every Christian to be involved in teaching the gospel to the lost in the world. Since Christians make up the church, this is the church's mission.

ORGANIZATION

Jesus organized the church for the maximum effectiveness in carrying out its mission. Jesus is its head (Colossians 1:18).-

He reigns over His church from Heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23). (There are no earthly head quarters nor earthly head of His church.)

Jesus directs the affairs of the church through His living Word, the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16,17; Hebrews 4:12).

Each congregation is governed independently as Christians submit to the revealed will of Christ out of love (John 14:15).

This arrangement places full responsibility upon each congregation to fulfill Christ's commission.

As the physical body follows the direction of its head, so Christ's body, the church, carries out His will. The church never has the right to make laws where Christ has not (2 John 9).

Congregations of the Lord's people throughout the world are bound together by ties of fellowship (Romans 16:16).

Christ ordained that spiritually qualified men serve specific functions in the church. Elders, bishops, or pastors are to oversee or shepherd the flock (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3).

A bishop's responsibility does not extend beyond the local congregation in which he serves.

Deacons are to minister to the material needs of others (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-6). Evangelists publicly proclaim and teach the gospel of Christ. They serve in a local congregation or go from place to place preaching the Word (Acts 19:10; 13:2-28; 2 Timothy 4:1-5).

In the church of the New Testament, there is no organizational structure beyond the local congregation. This plan is practical and effective for building itself up in love and proclaiming the good news of Jesus to the world (Ephesians 4:11-16).

RULE OF FAITH

The only rule of faith which Christ has given to His church

is the written Word of God which is "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16,17). Those who love Jesus will gladly abide in His teaching (John 14:15; 15:5-17).

Following manuals and creeds written by uninspired men indicates lack of trust in Jesus and renders one's worship vain (Matthew 15:9). Great respect for the inspired Word of God characterizes those who want to please God (Acts 20:32; 1 Peter 1:22-2:3; 4:11).

WORSHIP

Jesus teaches that acceptable worship must be sincere and conform to the revealed standard of truth (John 4:24; 17:7). The New Testament church comes together to ...

Break bread (Acts 20:7). The Lord's Supper is observed every Sunday. It is a memorial of Jesus' sacrifice for the Christian's sins. The bread and fruit of the vine are reminders of the body and blood of Jesus. In partaking of these emblems, the Christian proclaims the benefits of Christ's death until He returns. (1 Corinthians 11:26-32)

Pray. This was part of the worship in the early church (Acts 2:42). Through prayer one can express his gratitude to God for blessings received and ask God to meet the needs of others as well as one's self (Philippains 4:6,7; 1 Timothy 2:1-3).

The prayer of faith is always answered according to one's highest good (Matthew 7:7-11; John 15:7).

Sing. The Christian is instructed to "sing and make music in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19). Christians also teach and admonish one another in song (Colossians 3:16). Singing praises to God from the heart is one of the most uplifting experiences in the life of a Christian!

Give. The church is instructed by example to give according to one's income every Sunday (1 Corinthians 16:1,2). Giving enables Christ's work to be carried on. Giving must be done cheerfully, generously and according to one's own free will (2 Corinthians 8:1-13; 9:6-14).

The church is to support its own work; it should never depend upon those outside the church to finance its work.

Preach the Word. Public proclamation of Christ's message and exhortation to duty is a part of Christian worship (Acts 20:7; Hebrews 10:25).

Evangelists are to "preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, encourage with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2).