

“Just Trying to Be Right II”
“When is a Church a Church of Christ?”

Introduction

In our first lesson, we discussed various incorrect meanings of the word “church”. Then we looked at the meaning of the word as defined in the Bible. We learned that the word “church” is not particularly a religious word, but simply means a group of people whether assembled or not. We also learned that the church exists on a universal level as well as a local level. Universally, there is no organization, neither is there ever an assembly. Locally, the church is made up of people who band themselves together in order to fulfill God’s purposes. In this second lesson, we want to answer an important question...”When is a Church a Church of Christ?”

A CHURCH IS “OF CHRIST” WHEN...

- I. THEY ACCEPT THE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS CHRIST DEMANDS.**
If a group of people has rejected Christ’s teachings on salvation, they are “of men” and not “of Christ”.

- II. IT FOLLOWS A DIVINE MISSION.**
When a group of people promotes various schemes and plans of men, they are “of men”.

- III. IT ENGAGES IN AUTHORIZED METHODS OF WORSHIP.**
If a group of people worship according to the likings or teachings of men, they are “of men”.

- IV. IT HAS A SCRIPTURAL ORGANIZATION.**
When a group of people organize themselves according to popular systems of men, that group is “of men” and not “of Christ”.

- V. IT WEARS BIBLE NAMES ONLY.**
When a group of people call themselves after men or systems, they are “of men” and not “of Christ”.

Conclusion

The “Church of Christ” is a group of people that must have an exclusive relationship with Christ. As defined in the Scriptures, it does matter what we believe and what we do. If what a group of people believes and does is not solely defined by Christ, then quite simply, that group of people is not of Christ.