

The church of Christ

Is there just one church?

The church belonging to Christ

Jesus said: *"I will build my church..."*

One church in scripture:

- Jesus said: *"I will build my church"* (Mat. 16:18)
- God purchased that church His with blood (Acts 20:28)
- Jesus is head over a single body (Eph. 1: 22-23)
- There is one body [as there is one Lord, faith & God] (Eph.4:4-6)
- Christ is savior of the body (Eph. 5:23-27)
- The saved are added to the church (Acts 2:38-47)

One church in scripture:

"I will build my church" (Mat. 16:18)

The church, so far, is always in the singular.

... that church His with blood (Acts 20:28)

... er a single body (Eph. 1:22)

... there is one Lord

It is composed of those who are saved in Christ (4-6)

- This church belongs to God ... Christ.

- Christ is in charge of it – He rules.

If we start looking in the “christian religious world” for the right church...

CONFUSION!

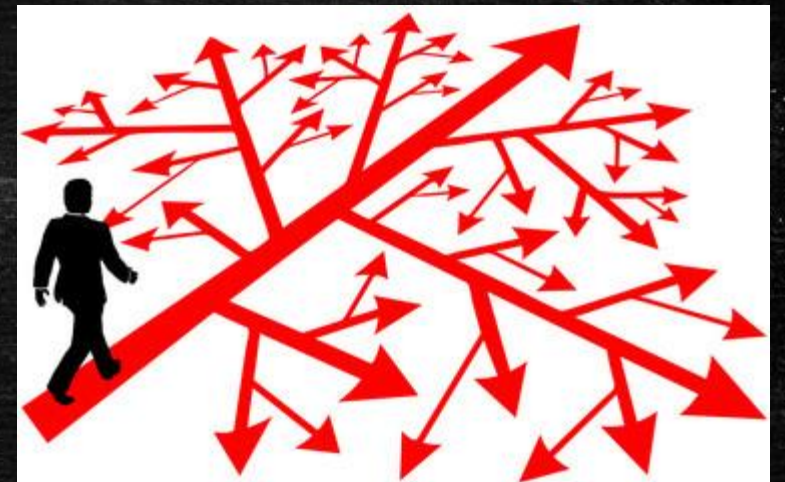
Competing authorities

Various doctrines...

Different instructions:

- How to be saved
- How to worship
- God’s moral expectation
- Etc.

A picture of you looking for the right church in our religious world :



Finding the church of Christ

Start looking in the Bible!

The church began as one, local church.

Acts 2:37-47 – In Jerusalem

- By preaching of the gospel – v. 14-40
- As they received the word & were baptized – v. 41
- They continued in apostles' teaching – v.42...
- More were added to the church daily – v. 47

Read about this church until Acts 8

Saints scatter from Jerusalem...

- Persecution of the church scatters Christians – Acts 8:1-5
- New churches spring up wherever Christ is preached:
 - Samaria – Acts 8
 - Damascus – Acts 9
 - Judea, Galilee, Samaria – Acts 9:31
 - Lydda, Sharon, Joppa, Caesarea,
 - Antioch – Acts 11
 - Paul's journeys – Acts 13-20

How many churches
are there?
How do they relate to
one another?

Still a church in Jerusalem – Acts 11:22

All Christ's Churches are Alike

- All began with the same teaching – Mat. 28:18-20
- Changes & differences called for return to revelation – Acts 15
- Paul taught the same things everywhere:
 - Acts 15:19-27
 - Rom. 10:10-13
 - 1 Cor. 1:2; 4:17; 7:17; 14:33; 16:1

Compare the letters
Follow the teaching
See the interaction

All Christ's Churches are Alike

Instructions to an evangelist – 1 Timothy // 2 Timothy

Instructions to churches – Gal. 1:6-10

The same doctrine – 2 John

Warnings given about false / different teachings – 2 Peter

**NOT THE SAME BECAUSE OF A GOVERNMENT
STRUCTURE BINDING THEM TOGETHER ... THE SAME AS
LONG AS EACH CHURCH FOLLOWED THE TRUTH!**

Not all "Churches of Christ" are truly churches OF Christ ...

Unity in Christ's Church

Unity in each congregation

Ephesians 4:1-17

- Proper treatment of each other.
- Growing in a knowledge of truth.
- Unity is a local accomplishment:
1 Cor. 1:10-13

Unity among congregations

No scripture defining

- The result of each church following the same hope, Lord and faith – Eph. 4:4-6
- Unity in sanctification by the word of truth – John 17:11-23

There is one spiritual body of which Christ is the Head.

Composed of all the saved

- Of all time.
- All over the world.

But practically organized and functioning in independent assemblies

- Saved according to His instruction.
- Working and serving by His direction.
- Believing, obeying and teaching His word.

