

The Truth

The Whole Truth

**And nothing but
the Truth**

In Context

In Love

**How to identify the New Testament
Church**

**There are many different churches in the world
today ALL claiming to be “the Lord’s church,”
while Jesus only built one.**

*Ephesians 1:22-23 “And He put all things under His
feet, and gave Him to be head over all things **to the
church,** ²³ **which is His body, the fullness of Him
who fills all in all.**”*

The Church is the body of Christ

"

How to identify the New Testament Church

There are many different churches in the world today ALL claiming to be “the Lord’s church,” while Jesus only built one.

Ephesians 4:4 “*There is **one body** and one Spirit*”

There is only One body of Christ

"

How to identify the New Testament Church

There are many different churches in the world today ALL claiming to be “the Lord’s church,” while Jesus only built one.

Since the body of Christ is the church,

And there is only One body,

There is only One Church!

“

How to identify the New Testament Church

God Hates religious division

1 Corinthians 1:10 “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, **and that there be no divisions among you**, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

“

How to identify the New Testament Church

To which church should I become a member?

To the Lord's church!

But which one is it?

And how can I identify it?

"

How to identify the New Testament Church

The same way the police would locate a missing automobile...

Automobiles have several marks of identity (VIN #, license #, make, model, color, etc.)

Locate the car that has ALL of the correct marks of identification, and you have found the missing automobile!

"

How to identify the New Testament Church

Find the church which has ALL of the marks or characteristics of the church described in the scriptures as the one Christ built, and you will have the one true church!

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL NAME

- **A bride takes the name of her husband.**
- **Any bride calling herself by another's name dishonors her husband.**
- **The church is the bride of Christ. Eph. 5:23**
- *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL NAME

- **A bride takes the name of her husband.**
- **Any bride calling herself by another's name dishonors her husband.**
- **The church is the bride of Christ. Eph. 5:23**
- **The church, the bride of Christ, wears a name that brings honor and glory to Christ.**
- *Acts 11:25-26 "Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. ²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church.... And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL NAME

- **A bride takes the name of her husband.**
- **Any bride calling herself by another's name dishonors her husband.**
- **The church is the bride of Christ. Eph. 5:23**
- **The church, the bride of Christ, wears a name that brings honor and glory to Christ.**
- *Romans 16:16 "Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you."*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL ORIGIN

- **Jesus is the builder and foundation of the church.**
- **Matthew 16:18 "I will build My church"**
- **I Corinthians 3:11 "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Christ Jesus."**

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL ORIGIN

- **Jesus is the builder and foundation of the church.**
- **The Kingdom and the church are the same institution**
- **Matthew 16:18-19 “I will build my church – I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven”**

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL PATTERN OF WORSHIP

- **Pray to God through Jesus**
- *Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*
- *1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL PATTERN OF WORSHIP

- **Eating the Lord's Supper**
- *Acts 20:7-8 "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight."*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL PATTERN OF WORSHIP

- **Eating the Lord's Supper**
- *1 Corinthians 11:23-25 "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat;* this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL PATTERN OF WORSHIP

- **Singing praises to the Lord**
- *Colossians 3:16* “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”
- **Nowhere in the New Testament is any music other than singing authorized**

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL PATTERN OF WORSHIP

- **Free-will contribution on the first day of the week**
- *1 Corinthians 16:1-2* “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: ² On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **Preaching the Gospel**
- *2 Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **Preaching the Gospel**
- *Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **Teaching**
- *Matthew 28:18-20* “*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **Teaching**
- *2 Timothy 2:1-2* “*You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **Teaching**
- *Hebrews 5:12-13* “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL WORK OF THE CHURCH

- **Benevolence to needy saints**
- *Acts 11:29* “Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.”
- **Every scripture regarding benevolence from the church specifies the recipients as needy saints.**
- **Christians can help anyone as individuals from their own personal funds.**

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

- **Christ is the HEAD of the church**
- *Colossians 1:18 “And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

- **Christ is the HEAD of the church**
- **Christ is in Heaven**
- *Ephesians 1:19-21 “and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

- Christ is the **HEAD** of the church
- Christ is in Heaven
- The Head of the Church is in Heaven, not on earth
- The church has **NO** earthly organizational leader on the earth

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

- Christ's church is organized into local congregations with elders in each one
- *1 Peter 5:2-4 "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

- **Deacons were to be appointed as special helpers**
- *Philippians 1:1-2 “Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops {elders} and deacons.”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE SCRIPTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

- **I Timothy 3:1-13 outlines the qualifications which ALL elders and deacons MUST meet in order to serve...**
- **Titus 1:5-9 also lists qualifications for the elders (who are also called bishops or overseers.)**

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE ONLY RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH IS THE NEW TESTAMENT

- *2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE ONLY RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH IS THE NEW TESTAMENT

- *2 Peter 1:3 “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE ONLY RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH IS THE NEW TESTAMENT

- *1 Peter 4:11 “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever.”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

THE ONLY RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH IS THE NEW TESTAMENT

- *Romans 10:17 “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

How to identify the New Testament Church

There are many different churches in the world today ALL claiming to be “the Lord’s church,” while Jesus only built one.

Does the church you are meeting with have ALL of the marks or characteristics of the Lord’s church?

The Truth

The Whole Truth

And nothing but the Truth

In Context

In Love