



The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

Hillcrest church of Christ

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313
(920) 499-5677

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com

May 28th, 2006

Must One Be a Member of the church of Christ?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

How many churches did Jesus establish? The Bible answers, **ONE!** Jesus used the word church (singular), not churches (plural), when He promised, *I will build my church* (**Matt 16:18**).

Using the words church and body interchangeably, Paul wrote, *Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body* (**Eph. 5:23**). In fact, according to Paul, **the church is the body** (**Eph. 1:22- 23; Cot. 1:18**).

Furthermore, Paul declared, *There is one body* (**Eph. 4:4**). It just stands to reason that if the church is the body; and, if there is only one body; then **there is only one church**, which is Christ's.

Must one be a member of the church of Christ if he is saved? The Bible answers, **YES!** All the saved will have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, (**Col.**

1:14; Heb. 9:22). Paul said the church is that *which he that purchased with His own blood* (**Acts 20:28**). The church is the body (**Eph. 1:22-23**). Christ is the savior of the body (**Eph. 5:23**). Christ, loved the church, and gave himself for it, (**Eph. 5:25**). **Acts 2:47 says, And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. One must be a member of the church of Christ if he is saved**

I because the church is the saved! Since the establishment of His church in **Acts 2** (the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection), it cannot be shown from the Bible that anyone has been saved outside the Lord's church.

The church of Christ is God's family (**Eph. 3:14-15**). Paul called the church *the house of God* (**1 Tim. 3:15**). In order for one to be saved, he must be a child of God (**Rom. 8:14-17**).

Remember, the saved are God's children, and the church is God's family. Question: Does God have children outside His family (the church)? If one is saved (a child of God), but not in God's family (the church), then God is the Father of children outside His family. **No one should make such an accusation against God!** But, that is what one is doing if he says people can be saved without being a member of the Lord's church. God has no children outside His family. All of God's children are in His family; therefore, all as God's children are in His church. Since God has no children outside His family, and since the church is His family, only those in the church of Christ will be saved.

The word *church* means *the called out*. One is

called out by the gospel of Christ (**2 Thess. 2:14**). One accepts that call and is saved when he believes and obeys that gospel (**2 Thess. 1:6-9; Heb. 5:8-9**). But notice **Colossians 3:15**, *...ye are called in one body*. **Colossians 1:18** shows the body to be the church; therefore, those who are called are called in **one church**. If the church is the *called out*, as ekklesia means, then the church is the saved. Those not in the church (the called out) are walking in darkness (lost), (**1 Pet. 2:9**).

No one can be saved unless he is reconciled unto God (**Rom. 5:10; Heb. 2:17**). Sin separates a man from God (**Isa. 59:1-2**). Severed, separated from God, man is hopelessly lost (**Eph. 2:12**). Through the blood of Christ, one may be reconciled (**2 Cor. 5:17-21**), and made nigh unto God (**Eph. 2:13**). (By the way, the blood that reconciles one to God is the blood that purchased the church.) **Ephesians 2:16** establishes that those reconciled unto God are reconciled **in one body**. The one body is the one church (**Cot. 1:18**); therefore, those reconciled unto God are reconciled in one church. Those outside the church of Christ have not been reconciled unto God.

THINK! THINK! THINK!

**What sort of church
would the Lord's
church be if every member were just
like me?**

The Final Judgment

by David Padfield

- All of the nations of the earth who have ever lived will be present (Matt. 25:32)
- The Word of God will be the standard of judgment -- not the creed books written by men (John 12:48)
- We will be judged on the basis of our deeds and not just our attitude (Rom. 2:6)
- No "warning signs" will be given prior to the return of Christ (Matt. 24:36)
- Christ will return at an unexpected time, during normal circumstances upon the earth (2 Pet. 3:10)
- When Christ returns "every eye shall see Him," not just the redeemed (Rev. 1:7)
- For some, it will be a day of unspeakable joy (Rev. 21:1-4)
- For others, it will be a day of horror (2 Thes. 1:6-8)
- When Christ returns He will deliver the [kingdom](#) back to His Father (1 Cor. 15:24)
- There is no passage in the Bible which states Christ will ever set foot on this earth again -- the Bible teaches that we will "meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thes. 4:17)
- Once Christ receives His own they will "always" be with Him, not just for a 1,000 years as some teach (1 Thes. 4:17)
- While we wait for the Lord to return we have the opportunity to repent (2 Pet. 3:10)
- There is no second chance for men to [repent](#) after death (Heb. 9:27)
- Take comfort in the thought of His return (1 Thes. 4:18)

<http://www.padfield.com/1999/judgment.html>