



The Voice Of Truth

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The One Church

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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 saviour of the body” (Eph. 5:23). In fact, according to Paul, the church is the body, (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 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 hath purchased with His own blood, (Acts 20:28). The church is the body, (Eph, 1:22-23). Christ is the saviour 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 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), 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, (Col. 1:18); therefore, those reconciled unto God are reconciled in one church. Those outside the church of Christ have not been reconciled unto God.

Top 10 list of marriage mistakes:

1. Refusing sex when demanded. 1 Cor 7
 2. Creating a dependency link between the two roles of husbands loving their wives and of wives submitting to their husbands.
 3. Husbands failing to unconditionally love and honour their wives, even when they rebelliously refuse to submit.
 4. Wives failing to unconditionally submit to their husbands, even when they are treated badly.
 5. Limiting the extent of submission to "just the big stuff" instead of 100% of the smallest judgment areas. The wife may be the manager of the house, but the husband is the manager of the wife.
 6. Going to bed without resolving a problem. Harboring a grudge or anger from the previous day.
 7. Thinking that professional, certified marriage councilors or Ph D level psychiatrists will help at all.
 8. Thinking that a spouse may separate or divorce without sin.
 9. Wives who address their husbands above a "quiet, respectful, submissive, whisper", at any time.
 10. Refusing to physically discipline children with spankings from time to time, as needed.
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B. Proverbs for women

1. "The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish tears it down with her own hands." Proverbs 14:1
 2. "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who shames *him* is like rotteness in his bones." Proverbs 12:4
 3. "A gracious woman attains honor, And ruthless men attain riches." Proverbs 11:16
 4. "*As* a ring of gold in a swine's snout *So is* a beautiful woman who lacks discretion." Proverbs 11:22
 5. "Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed." Proverbs 15:22
 6. "There is gold, and an abundance of jewels; But the lips of knowledge are a more precious thing." Proverbs 20:15
 7. "Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Or you will also be like him." Proverbs 26:4
 8. "Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old." Proverbs 23:22
 9. "Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her rejoice who gave birth to you." Proverbs 23:25
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C. Proverbs for men

1. "Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching; " Proverbs 1:8
 2. "Better is he who is lightly esteemed and has a servant Than he who honors himself and lacks bread." Proverbs 12:9
 3. "The one who despises the word will be in debt to it, But the one who fears the commandment will be rewarded." Proverbs 13:13
 4. "Cease listening, my son, to discipline, *And you will* stray from the words of knowledge." Proverbs 19:27
 5. "A wise man is strong, And a man of knowledge increases power. For by wise guidance you will wage war, And in abundance of counselors there is victory. " Proverbs 24:5-6
 6. "He who keeps the law is a discerning son, But he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father." Proverbs 28:7
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What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17