

The ONE Church

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We only have to open the telephone directory and look at all the different churches that are listed to wonder “**what church is the right church?**” There are books that are written about various churches, most claiming to be spiritually and doctrinally correct. We can read where all kinds of things are taught such as praying to Mary, baptizing babies, some priests can marry, others can't, the social work of the church, no life after death or there is life after death! How can we know which church is the church that Jesus built?

I Will Build MY Church

Jesus said: “...*I will build my church...*” (Matthew 16:18). Jesus said this way back in 30 A.D. Therefore, the church that Christ built was built long ago. Every denomination that is in existence today was built long after Jesus said “*I will build my church*”. Most are proud to tell you the exact date that their church was established and the creed in which it was established on. Since Jesus said “*I will build my church*”, that must mean that the church in which Jesus built belongs to Him. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:22-23: “*And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.*” Here we can clearly see that **HIS BODY = HIS CHURCH**. In Colossians 1:18 it is pointed out that Christ is “*the head of the body, the church*”. Since Christ is the head, He decides, controls, and guides His church.

There Is ONE

The word **ONE** is mentioned several times in the New Testament. Let's look at a few references to this. In Ephesians 4:4-6 we can read where “*there is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*” Here we can plainly read where there is just **ONE** of each. Yet while most will acknowledge there is **ONE** God, they recognize several churches! Paul said that we should be unified (1 Corinthians 1:10). Only when we're doing all things exactly as God has stipulated can we truly be **ONE**, which is to be unified.

Jesus said: “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*” (John 10:27). In John 10:16 we can read where there is **ONE** fold and **ONE** shepherd. Therefore, in the New Testament (the testament we are under today), we see that there was only **ONE CHURCH!**

Doctrines Of Men

The Bible is very plain on Christ's teaching about His church. Yet many still want to preach and teach more than **ONE** church and various other ways of doing things that are in direct violation of God's teaching in His Word! Jesus condemned man for teaching his own ideas and doctrines (Mark 7:7-9). Because man did change the teachings of Jesus, we now have denominations. Some denominationalists teach that

denominations are simply branches of Jesus' church. This cannot be so, for in the Bible we read *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned"* (John 15:5-6). Disciples are the branches, not churches!

In Mark 16:16, Jesus said: *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* Some say "He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved." Who shall we believe, Jesus, or the doctrines of men? We cannot pollute the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11). When Christ's doctrine is polluted with the doctrine of men, it makes man's worship of God empty of any value, it is vain!

Are you simply following the traditions and doctrines of men or are you striving to abide in the doctrine of Jesus Christ?