

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Identity of the Church

The world hears so much of denominationalism in religion, both in pulpit and press, such as Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, etc., that it must be wondering if Christ Himself ever had a church, and if He has one today, where is it? How could one find it? Out of the many churches that are in the world today, which church is right; which church did Jesus Christ build?

There is no arbitrary manner or method of settling such questions. It is a matter of identity and can be determined only by marks, or characteristics. If an automobile is lost, it can be identified by make, model and number. If the church is lost, it may be found only by identification based on New Testament description. The church is a New Testament institution and hence a perfect description of it is therein set forth.

Being a question of identity, similarity will not do. A thing may be similar yet not identical. In order to establish identity with the New Testament church, the church today must be Scriptural in every essential feature.

(1) It must be Scriptural in origin. Everything began in miracle, but continues through law. First creation, then procreation. God created the first man and woman, and then placed within them the potentiality of procreation. Likewise, God created the church (Ephesians 2:14-16), and then provided for its perpetuity through the potentiality of the seed of the kingdom, ***“which is the word of God”*** (Luke 8:11). So long as the seed exists, the power of reproduction is present. Therefore, an unbroken line of church succession is unnecessary to be argued. The church today is produced by the Word of God, and exists wherever men and women have obeyed it.

(2) It must be Scriptural in doctrine. The “Great Commission” represents the constitution of the church. The law of pardon, or terms of admission into it, are clearly and unmistakably set forth. Matthew says “teach and baptize” - not baptize and teach. Mark says “preach, believe, baptized, saved” - not believe, saved and baptized. Luke says “repentance and remission of sins.” The order of these items, both scripturally and psychologically, then, is preaching faith, repentance, baptism, salvation. On Pentecost, Peter first executed this commission. He preached, the hearers believed, repented and were baptized “for the remission of sins.” The Lord added them to the church. there is no other way to get into it. The same thing it took to make Christians then, it takes to make Christians now. All who teach or practice to the contrary are unscriptural in doctrine and that destroys identity.

(3) It must be Scriptural in worship. Paul reminds us to keep the ordinances as he delivered them unto us and warns against “will worship or self-devised worship, “after the commandments and doctrines of men” (Colossians 2:22-23). Scriptural doctrine is no more important than Scriptural worship. A rigid adherence to correct doctrine and an “expediency” policy in worship is inconsistent. A “Thus saith the Lord” is no more imperative in one than in the other and the New Testament requires it in both. Therefore, in the worship, the teaching of the apostles and the practice of the New Testament church must be our teaching and practice. The limit of their teaching must be the limit of our practice. And to introduce innovations, such as instrumental music, “which the Catholics foolishly borrowed from the Jews,” is but to destroy identity in worship with the New Testament church. That the Jews used it is a fact, but that Christian Jews did not use it is another fact; and why they ceased to use it, as they did other Jewish observances, has a significant bearing on the issue, and is reason enough for its non-use by Christian today. As well add to the doctrine of the New Testament as to its worship and as well affiliate with those who do one as with those who do the other.

(4) It must be Scriptural in work. Christians are commanded to “work out their own salvation”. For this purpose, we have set forth in the New Testament a divine arrangement, the local church. Its organization is simple, not complex. As a perfectly framed, living, working organism, with elders, deacons and members, it provides all the organization required to do the work that God has commanded the church to do. “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages” (Ephesians 3:21).

(5) It must be Scriptural in name. The church of Christ is not a name; it is a thing; and since that is what it is, why call it something else? We are willing to call the church by any Scriptural name or title, but by no name or title not found in the Bible. The Bible is latitude and longitude enough on both names and things in religion—Bible things by Bible names.

Reverting to the question of identity, when you find a body of people today who are Scriptural in origin, doctrine, worship, organization, work and name, you have by identification found the Bible church.

“Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt. 16:18)

—Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

Prayer Requests

Mary Brown was very sick last week with dizziness, a bad headache and upset stomach.

Steve Brown (Bill’s son) is in MCH with an irregular heartbeat. He has had two shock treatments which did not work. A third shock treatment was being considered. Bill has requested prayers for his son.

Hattie Mae Gilmore was sick last week with dizziness and just not feeling well.

Easton Jones (son of Marissa & Bobby) underwent surgery for a bowel obstruction last Sunday. Prayers are requested for Easton.

Keith Mitchell (father to Jeff & Holly’s son-in-law) who lives in Alabama is in need of prayers. He is dealing with serious health issues at this time. Keep Keith in your prayers.

Nolan Wells (son of Josh & Lindsey) had the flu last week.

Concerns Update

LaDonna Chism was released from the hospital and taken to Encompass for rehab. She is in Room #230-B. Keep her in your prayers.

Daniel Eastwood was released from Madison Medical Resort. He is home now but, will go to a rehab facility for physical therapy soon. Prayers are needed.

Wilene Wright is now in Room #110 at Madison Medical Resort. This is the “Long Term Care” unit. Keep Wilene in your prayers that she will be well enough to return to her home.

Prayer List

Mary Anchondo; Maria Baeza; Mary Brown; Jim Burson; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Sylvia Campos; John Carroll; LaDonna Chism; Cathy Eastwood; Daniel Eastwood; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Brent Harrell; Lon & Lana Howard; Vanessa Machuca; Leigh Ann McFarland; Charlene McFatter, Keith Mitchell; Milous Mitchell; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce Plyler; K’ Lynn Roberts; Linda Straw; Truett Thixton; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; John Wood; Wilene Wright.

Eisenhower’s Homebound...

Glenna Callendar; Joyce Drake; Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Events

Watch ***“In Search of the Lord’s Way”*** Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9

Just a reminder: **Jeff Miller, Ph.D.** will be here on April 19th, 20th and 21st to present lessons on “Fossils” deposited in the earth’s foundation proving evidence of God’s creation model. We encourage everyone to attend if at all possible.

Office News...

Ladies, you are invited to a **“Baby Shower”** honoring Kamryn Wesson on Saturday, February 10th at 10:00 a.m. at Bonnie Sorenson’s home. Selections are at Baby List.com and La Bebe. It is suggested, in lieu of a baby shower card, to please consider a baby book instead. Come and join in on the fun and celebration.

To Be Like Christ

The lofty goal of the Christian is to be like Christ. **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 2:5).

Paul’s plea in this passage is, to lay aside personal ambition, pride and the desire for prominence and prestige, and to have the humble, selfless desire to serve. This was the very essence of the life of Christ.

To have the “mind of Christ” demands a rigid self-discipline that enables the disciple to bring **“into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”** (2 Cor. 10:5). Thus, the first law of discipleship is self-discipline or self-denial.

Jesus said, **“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me”** (Matthew 16:24). Self-denial means the mastery of the spirit of man over the flesh. It does not mean simply the denying of certain **things** to oneself, but the denying of **self!** Putting self (**off**) the throne of one’s life and placing Christ on the throne.

To accomplish this noble end, little victories must be won, small gains made in the daily struggles of life. The challenges of daily living, successfully met, will lead to the Christ-like life.

Count your blessings daily and allow gratitude to fill your heart for God’s rich provisions. Let thanksgiving push aside the petty problems that cause murmuring which so often mars the day. **“What shall I render unto Jehovah for all his benefits toward me?”** (Psalm 116:12)

Let fear and doubt be swept away with the tide of assurance in the abiding love of God. Remember: **“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear: What shall man do unto me?”** (Psalm 118:6; Hebrews 12:6).

Avoid venting frustrations and disappointments through angry words that disturb and destroy. **“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how you ought to answer each one”** (Colossians 4:6).

Yes, a difficult endeavor—to be Christ-like! Without the grace of God, it would be impossible and with His help, it demands the very best we can do.

--Dan Flournoy

February 4th, 2024	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Cody Wesson	Oliver Hernandez
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture Reading	Jr. Munoz	Scot Straw
Second Prayer	Scot Straw	Cody Wesson
Closing Prayer	Jacob Carson	Don Easlon
Lord’s Supper	<u>Larry May</u> Steve Easlon Jacke Perkins Richard Siler	Craig Wesson Communion (In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson 556-5547— *Deacon:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332—
Pulpit: Caleb York 438-1958—*Table:* Craig Wesson 934-4633 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson
934-4646 —*Recording Sermons:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 *Contributions:* Craig Wesson

Sunday AM

“Christ and His Cross”
(Mark 8:31-38)

Sunday PM

“A Heart for God”
(I Samuel 15:10-19)

Our Records

Bible Class... 71
Morning Worship...80
Evening Worship ... 64
Wednesday...62
Contribution...5,102.75
NMCCH Contrib. \$2,196.75