

# Eisenhower Church of Christ

## How Do I Identify the Lord's Church?

Since Christ's church exists, and since the Scriptures tell us how to be added to it, the next logical question is: "How Do I Identify the Lord's Church?" If you were to go in search of the Lord's church, for what should you look? In other words, how can I identify Christ's church when there are literally thousands of different churches in our world today? Are all of them Christ's church? Some have suggested that you should visit every church and try them all out. However, since we have the New Testament, we can examine what the church looked like at its beginning. In examining the New Testament, we find characteristics that can help us identify Christ's church today. The church is a body (Ephesians 1:22-23), and like all bodies it has identifying marks. Let us consider a few.

Christ's church is identified by its foundation. "***Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it***" (Psalm 127:1). Christ founded only one church, and in seeking Christ's church, we must remember that He is its foundation and builder. The house of God is built on Jesus Christ, not on the reputation of man or human doctrines and creeds (I Corinthians 3:10-11; Ephesians 2:19-22).

Christ's church is identified by its name. Many ask, "Does it really matter what we call the church?" Yes! The church was built and purchased by Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28), therefore, the church belongs to Christ. The "whole family" Paul speaks of in Ephesians 3:15 refers to the family of God, which derives its spiritual name from its Father. The name of the church reflects both its foundation and ownership.

The Holy Spirit, speaking through the New Testament writers, identifies the church in several different ways. The church of the living God (I Timothy 3:15), the household of faith (Galatians 6:10), the church of God (Acts 20:28; I Corinthians 1:2), the church of Christ (Romans 16:16), the church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23). He also identified the individual members of the church as Christians (Acts 11:26), saints (Romans 15:25-26), believers (Acts 5:14; I Timothy 4:12) and disciples (Acts 21:4). These are designations Christ has given to His followers, which make up His church, which is His bride. Christ's bride wears His name which brings glory and honor to Him (Romans 7:4; Ephesians 3:21).

Christ's church is identified by its doctrine or teaching. Christ's church respects Jesus Christ as its Head and Founder and, as such, preaches the whole council of God (Acts 20:27). The body of Christ sites only God's Word in establishing authority for any practice or teaching (I Corinthians 4:6; 2 John 9-10).

Christ's church is identified by its Scriptural worship. The body of Christ seeks His authority for every practice (Colossians 3:17). Worship to God must be offered in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). Since God's Word is truth (John 17:17), worship offered "in truth" is that which is offered according to God's Word (2 Timothy 4:2), contributing to a common treasury upon the first day of each week (I Corinthians 16:1-2), partaking of the Lord's Supper upon the first day of each week (Matthew 26:26-28); Acts 2:42; 20:7) and singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19; I Corinthians 14:15; Hebrews 13:15).

The body of Christ is identified by its foundation, which is Christ; its head, which is Christ; its name, which reflects that Christ is its purchaser; its worship, which respects Christ's authority; and, its teachings, which exalt Jesus Christ.

There are many religious bodies, but there is only one body of Christ. Churches that are not Christ's church are also identifiable by their characteristics. Religious bodies that follow men, calling themselves by the names of men and names given by men, churches that leave God's Word and instead teach doctrines and commandments of men (Matthew 15:7-9), churches that add unauthorized elements like the use of instrumental music to their worship and churches that take away from God's Word by failing to partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week on a weekly basis are not the body of Christ. To find Christ's church, look for a church that gives a "thus saith the Lord" for its every practice.

—Clay Bond

### **Concerns Update**

**Marilyn Upshaw** was sent back to Oceans in Midland after a brief stay at Medical Center.

**Charles Wood** is back with us after struggling with bronchitis for a couple of weeks.

### **Prayer List**

Lee Roy Bell, Bill Bundick; Marie Bundick; Mitchell Bundick; Sissy Bundick; Linda and Sonny Coggins; John Cole; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; John Ford; Marjorie Foster; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Lon Howard; Janis Laminack; Elder & Glenna McCarty; Juan & Estella Morolez; Tanya Nichols; Trina Plyler; Charles Simmons; James Stephens; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; James Weaver; Judy Wells; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; John Wood; Jack Wright;

### **Eisenhower's Shut-ins**

Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

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

### **Youth**

#### **Bible Quiz Question...**

What Prophet took over from Elijah?

#### **Last Week's Bible Quiz answer...**

King Saul ruled Israel before King David?

### **Events**

Watch "***In Search of the Lord's Way***" every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the "**Speaking the Truth in Love**" program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

The "**New Mexico Children's Home**" will be back in Odessa June 6th, 2017. They are requesting **Juices (all kinds)**. Monetary donations also accepted.

The "**Tipton Children's Home**" will be here August 1st—3rd for their food drive. They have given us a list of the **Needed Items: Assorted Cereal, Assorted Soups, Presweetened Kool Aid, Sloppy Joe Sauce, Canned Chili, Granulated Sugar, Miracle Whip, Squeeze Mustard, BBQ Sauce, Canned Pears, Sliced Peaches; Supply List: Liquid Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels, Toilet Tissue.**

### **Graduation Shower...**

There will be a “**Graduation Shower**” for **Kamilla Armendarez** Saturday, May 20th between 12:00—2:00 pm in the Annex. Kamilla will be graduating from Odessa High on Friday, May 26th. Everyone is invited to come help her celebrate.

### **Baby Shower...**

Ladies, there will be a “**Baby Shower**” for Kallie Wesson, Saturday, June 3rd between 10:00 a.m. -12:00 noon at Bonnie Sorenson’s home. Kallie is registered at Target/Babies R Us/Pottery Barn Kids. Please come and join in on the celebration.

### **Office News**

Our Bible Class Coordinators will be asking for teachers and helpers for our “**Summer Quarter**” which will begin June 4th. If you are able or would like to start teaching God’s word, please let Larry May know.

**STF—Group #2** will pick up their cards in the Library following the morning service.

### *The Christian Mother*

*Sometimes I take for granted  
The Christian Mother who is there.  
The mother who has raised me,*

*Who gave her love and care.  
The Mother who helped me grow  
In a fine, Christian home.  
The Mother who has taught me*

*With God we’re not alone.  
The Mother who has laughed with me,  
When all was going well.*

*The Mother who has picked me up  
The times that I have failed.*

*The Mother I didn’t appreciate  
Until I was fully grown.*

*The sacrifices she made for me  
As time quickly moved along.*

*The Mother with such Christian faith  
That helped me from the start.  
The Mother who I love and cherish,  
And treasure in my heart.*

—Selected

**May 14th, 2017**

Announcements  
Song Leader  
Sermon  
Opening Prayer  
Scripture  
Second Prayer  
Closing Prayer

**A.M.**

Allen Weakland  
John Wood  
Allen Weakland  
Allen Weakland  
Cody Wesson  
Mike Roemisch  
Jeff Wesson

**P.M.**

Allen Weakland  
Jacob Carson  
Allen Weakland  
Allen Weakland  
Josh Weakland  
Josh Wells  
Richard Siler

Lord's Supper  
West...

Charles Wood  
George Warren  
Dylan Straw

Craig Wesson  
Communion  
(In Library)

East...

Bill Tolbert  
Jacob Carson  
Dex Dennard

**Other Responsibilities:** *Elder:* Allen Weakland 362-1403 *Deacon:* Josh Wells 770-6753; *Pulpit:* Bill Brown 362-0060; *Table:* Craig Wesson 934-4633; *Song Leaders:* Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties:* Chris Butler 362-7486; *Collections:* Chris Butler 362-7486

### **Sunday AM**

*"Mother's Day"*  
(Proverbs 1:8)

### **Sunday PM**

*"From Heaven or Man?"*  
(Matthew 21:23-27)

### **Our Records**

*Bible Class...* 77  
*Morning Worship...*140  
*Evening Worship...*63  
*Wednesday...*67  
*Contribution...*5,029.50