

THE CHURCH THAT CHRIST BUILT

Church: 1. From the Greek word ekklesia meaning “a calling out.”

2. Christian community of members on earth or in heaven or both.

3. Assembly. 4. Christ built his church: Matthew 16:18.

Christ came to earth and began to assemble a body of believers who compose the church of God (or the family of God). Men and women who repented of their sins were made members of his church. The benefits of membership include forgiveness of sins, a clean heart, spiritual, physical, and material blessings, and eternal life in heaven.

Ephesians 5:23 ...even as

**Christ:
The Head**

Christ is the head of the church...

Ephesians 1:22 to be the head over all things...

Ephesians 1:22,23 ...the church which is “his body”...

Colossians 1:18 ...And he is the head of “the body,” the church...

Colossians 1:24 The church of God is the body of Christ.

Romans 12:5 ...So we, being many, are “one body” in Christ

**Saved People
are the Body**

The saved are called to be part of only “one body.” **Colossians 3:15**

1 Corin. 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into “one body,” whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

1 Corin. 10:17 For we being many are one bread, and one body...

The human body was designed by God in such a way that the “head” acts as the control center for the entire body. Likewise Christ, being the head of the body, governs the church of God.

As the head, Christ has control over the body, not a particular man, council, or committee.

Church of God

The body of Christ is made up of all the saved. Some are pastors, some teachers, some helpers, etc. Each congregation of the church of God makes up the body of Christ. In order to be in God’s church, you must be born again, live a clean life, and obey the word of God.

The Church of God - The Body of Christ

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How To Become a Member

- Salvation is the only mode of membership - **Acts 2:47**.
- Salvation, not church membership, is the only way to have your sins “remitted” which means to “have the penalty of sin cancelled” - **Luke 1:77**.
- Repentance (a sincere regret for sinning) is also required. Christ preached repentance as a precondition for Salvation: **Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14,15**
So did Peter: **Acts 2:38**, John the Baptist: **Matthew 3:1,2**, the apostle Paul: **Acts 17:30**, and many others.
- A genuine Conversion (or change) is required - **Matthew 18:3, Acts 3:19**.
- Membership is forever as long as we live a holy or pure life - **Exodus 32:32,33**.

In many churches you can become a member by simply being baptized, or by attending regularly. Some people become automatic members because they are good financial contributors or good fund raisers or because they carry clout in the community. Others obtain membership with their musical talent or some other ability they may have. There are various other “non-Bible” ways many churches use to make new members.

In the Church of God:

God keeps the membership book and that book is found in heaven
Revelation 3:5, 20:12,15, 21:27.

When a man confesses his sins and repents, God writes his name in the book of life which is the official “membership book” of the church of God.

No sinners are members - **Matthew 7:21, 1 John 3:8,24, 5:18, 2 John 1:9**.

Christ is the head and the saved are the members. The members meet together as a local congregation and are led, taught, fed, and watched over by a God-called pastor - **Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 3:2, 1 Peter 5:2,3**.

Each member is very important - **1 Corinthians 12:14, Ephesians 4:16**.

God has a church that was built and named by his son Jesus. The church of God belongs to the Father and is not part of any other religious denomination. At the same time, God’s church is not independent. Every individual congregation makes up the “church.” To be independent means “to be separated from the whole.” God’s church is very much connected to the head (Christ) and to the rest of the body (the saved).

Only those who have repented of their sins and are living a pure life can be members of God’s church and enjoy all the benefits of being part. When Christ comes for the second time, will you be found a member of His church?