

Does having the name, “Church of Christ” over the door mean anything?

A discussion in a far away church –

Anyhow, the teacher continued to use the term corporate Church of Christ beliefs and me, being the person that I am, wanted to better understand what he meant by corporate Church of Christ beliefs. So I asked him to elaborate. He went on to say that the Church of Christ, although they claim to be nondenominational, had its own doctrine – if you walk into a Church of Christ anywhere in the country, there are a core set of beliefs that are held constituting the Church of Christ doctrine.

Just to try to give him an ounce of credibility back I asked, "so do you feel like the Church of Christ is a man-made institution?" He went on to say, "yes". I had a brief dialogue with the teacher after Bible Class because he's not ignorant and he didn't come from a nondenominational background. He was raised in the church but he's just a throw the baby out with the bath water Christian.

However, in this discussion we came to a head when we started discussing denominations. He holds the belief that there are denominations out there, such as the Baptists and Presbyterians, who are members of the Body of Christ. Meaning their baptism, because it was valid, added them to the body of Christ. I remember you mentioning the Presbyterian Church who withdrew fellowship from the larger association because of their understanding that they should have no affiliation with those that approved of homosexual marriages.

In the early 1900's, brother JD Tant would end many of his writings with the admonition, "Brethren, we are drifting."

Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

2:1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*.

You can drift away from your salvation.

Your children can drift away from their
salvation.

How?

Just stop paying attention to the word of
God!

There are a number of preachers who say that the “church of Christ” grew out of the restoration movement – which followed the reformation.

What started the reformation?

A desire to turn back to the Bible.

Martin Luther translated the Bible into German and on the way found out that many of the things the Roman Catholic Church, in which he was a Priest and a Monk, practiced, were not in the Scriptures and in fact were opposed to the Scriptures.

In the 95 theses Luther wanted to debate doctrines being taught, which he tacked to the door of the Roman Catholic Church in Wittenburg, Germany. Luther challenged the church concerning indulgences (payment for forgiveness of sins prior to their commission), belief alone saves, and forgiveness of sins by the power of the Pope rather by the gospel.

As the Bible was translated into common languages and more “laity” read it, they found additional problems with what they had been taught.

In 1797, James and Robert Haldane, members of the Church of Scotland, began advocating a return to New Testament Christianity. They established 85 churches in Scotland and Ireland. Churches planted by the Haldanes practiced baptism by immersion, weekly communion, and congregational polity (autonomous government).

Thomas and Alexander Campbell, both ordained in the Scottish Seceder Presbyterian Church, were influenced by the Haldanes. When they came to America in 1807 and 09, Alexander married and in 1812, at the birth of his first child, faced the prospect of whether she should be baptized.

He concluded that the Scriptures did not teach infant baptism, but rather baptism of believers for the remission of their sins.

Did Campbell develop the idea of no scriptural precedent for infant baptism as his own idea?

The simple answer is “NO” – please refer my lesson of July 26 for a Biblical explanation of this question. Not once, did I refer to what the Campbells believed. I simply taught what the Scriptures taught on the matter.

When we go further in our study of baptism, we find it is for the remission of sins.

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

Why is Acts 22.16 so important to our study?
Because Saul (later the apostle Paul) had seen
Jesus on the road to Damascus and when he
asked, Act 22:10 "... 'What shall I do, Lord?'
And the Lord said to me, 'Get up and go on
into Damascus, and there you will be told of
all that has been appointed for you to do.'

Saul called Jesus "Lord," showing that on the
road to Damascus he was a believer!

Act 9:9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. (10) Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." (11) And the Lord *said* to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,

Saul, a believer since he saw the Lord, had been praying for three days.

Praying does not remove sin.

Believing does not remove sin.

Baptism of the believer removes sin because until
Saul was baptized, he was still in his sins.

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be
baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His
name.'

Baptism for remission of sins is not a denominational doctrine – it is not a corporate Church of Christ doctrine – baptism of the believer for the remission of sins comes straight from God!

Where does baptism for the remission of sins place
the new born child of God?

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word
were baptized; and that day there were added
about three thousand souls.

Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the
people. And the Lord was adding to their number
[kjb - the church] day by day those who were being
saved.

How do we know if the KJV – the church – is correct
for where baptism places you. Two passages tell us
how to get into Christ – by baptism

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into
Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who
have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been
baptized into His death?

If we are put into Christ we are placed in His body!

Eph 1:22-23 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, (23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

How many churches did Jesus say He
would build?

Mat 16:18 "I also say to you that you
are Peter, and upon this rock I will
build My church; and the gates of
Hades will not overpower it.

How many kingdoms were foretold in
which Jesus is King?

Dan 2:44 "In the days of those kings the
God of heaven will set up a kingdom
which will never be destroyed, and *that*
kingdom will not be left for another
people; it will crush and put an end to all
these kingdoms, but it will itself endure
forever.

Now if there is only one church established by Jesus and one kingdom of which He is king, which one is it?

By definition a denomination is a division; called by a name for that group.

Do you find the name Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian in the Bible?

1Co 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Jesus' body has no divisions – you are either in it or not in it!

Rom 16:16 ... All the churches of Christ greet you.

Does having the name, “Church of Christ” over the door mean anything?

Gal 1:6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; (7) which is *really* not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. (8) But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! (9) As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

When we distort the gospel of Jesus Christ, it
doesn't matter what we call ourselves, we are
accursed!

2Pe 3:15-16 and regard the patience of our Lord *as*
salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul,
according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,
(16) as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of
these things, in which are some things hard to
understand, which the untaught and unstable
distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to
their own destruction.

Tit 3:10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him,

“corporate Church of Christ beliefs”

If a church is following “corporate Church of Christ beliefs”, they are not the body of Christ! Remember to walk in white and stand for God!

There may be some among them who are not being led astray, but God's admonition is clear.

Rev 3:3-5 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. (4) Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. (5) The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

In the early 80's, two missionaries from the church returned to Viet Nam. They prayed before they had their evening meal. A Vietnamese hotel worker observed them and walked over to their table. He said, "Are you members of the one true church; the one that Jesus established?" They answered, "we are" and he started crying, "I knew you would come back".

If you walk into a church of Christ, it is true that there is a “core set of beliefs” – it is the New Testament.

2Ti 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

When you plant good seed, it will bring forth after its kind.

Luk 8:11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.

Luk 8:15 "But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

When men tamper with the seed, it does not breed true, but something that is accursed. The name over the door needs to be one found in the Bible and the people inside the building need to be following only the word of God.

Anything less leaves something out that is true and anything more adds to the word of God.

1Th 5:21 But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good;

In the true church of Christ, there are no man-made doctrines. If you would become a member this day, just follow the example found in the Bible –

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.