Why I am a member of The Church of Christ Part 2 Why

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of CHRIST

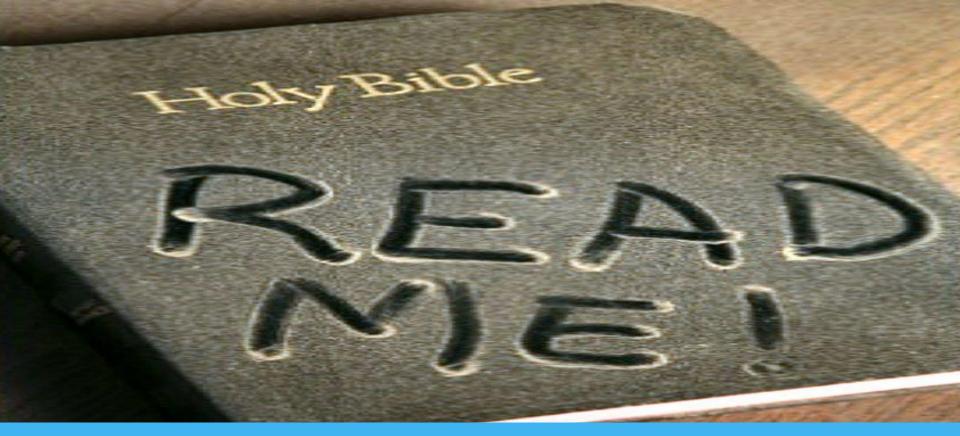
Churches of Christ seek to practice the principle of the Bible being the only source to find doctrine (known elsewhere as sola scriptura). ~Wikipedia



An American family Bible dating to 1859 A.D. **folks**

"If it's not in the Bible, then these folks aren't going to do it." — Carmen Renee Berry, The

Unauthorized Guide to Choosing a Church



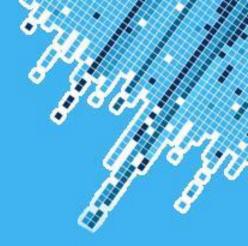
2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by God. And all Scripture is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching the right way to live. ~ERV Page 3

Churches of Christ Classification: Christian **Orientation:** New **Testament**, **Restoration Movement Polity:Congregationalist** Congregations:43,000 Members: 2,034,338 worldwide; 1,367,859 in the United States[1] ~ "Church numbers listed by country". ChurchZip. Retrieved 2014-12-05. Wikipedia



Demographics

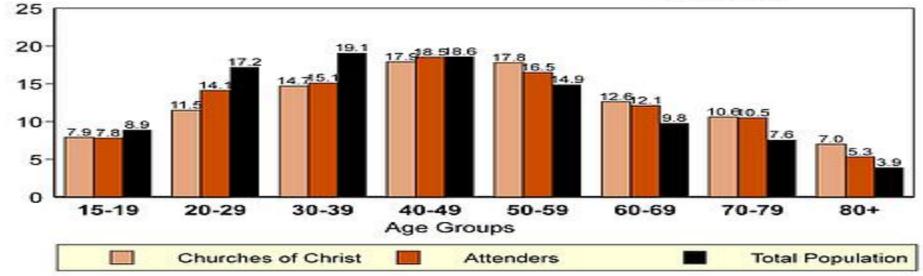
These churches comprise about 2,000,000 members in over 40,000 individual congregations worldwide. There are approximately 13,000 congregations in the United States. Overall U.S. membership was approximately 1.8 million in 1990 and 1.9 million in 2008.



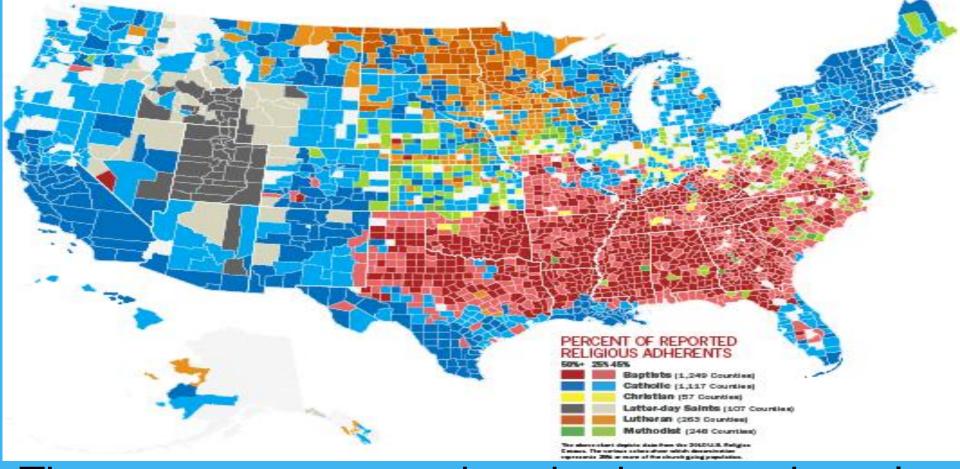
Age Profile of Adult Churches of Christ, Attenders and Population

Percent of all Churches of Christ people, attenders and population 15 years of age and over

Source: ABS 2001 Census, cra_tab2 and NCLS 2001.



Estimates of the proportion of the US adult population associated with the Churches of Christ vary from 0.8% to 1.5%. Roughly 1,240 congregations, with 172,000 members, are predominantly African-American. 240 congregations with 10,000 members are Spanishspeaking. ~Wikipedia



The average congregation size is approximately 100 members. In 2000, the Churches of Christ were the 12th largest religious group in the U.S. based on number of members, but the 4th largest in number of congregations. ~Wikipedia

Members of the church of Christ do not conceive of themselves as a new church started near the beginning of the 19th century. Rather, the whole movement is designed to reproduce in contemporary times the church originally established on Pentecost, A.D. 33. The strength of the appeal lies in the restoration of Christ's original church. "~ Batsell Barrett Baxter



Church of Christ follows only The Bible, for guidance regarding all doctrine.

Churches of Christ are autonomous Christian congregations associated with one another through common beliefs and practices. They seek to base doctrine and practice on the Bible alone. They teach that they are the church written in scripture. Page 9

PLAN of SALVATION



They teach that any individual, from the time that the Church began until now, can become part of that church by hearing the truth, believing the truth, repenting from their ways to God's ways, confessing that Jesus in the Bible is Christ, and being baptized for the remission of their sins. ~Wikipedia Page 10

- COR Sport Do 3 Six steps to salvation by grace 1. Hear the gospel of Christ (Rom 10:11-17) 2. Have faith (belief) in Christ (Rom 1:16-17, 8:34) 3. Confess faith in Christ (Rom 10:8-10) Repent of sin (Rom 2:4-5, 6:1-2) 5. Be baptized into Christ (Rom 6:3-4, 8:1) 6. Continue in his way (Rom 12:1-2, 12:11-12)

- Churches of Christ generally share the following theological beliefs and practices:
- Autonomous, congregational church organization
- Do not hold to any denominational creeds
 Reliance on the Bible alone for doctrine/service
- Reliance on the Dible alone for doctime/service
- Local governance by a plurality of male elders
- Baptism by immersion of consenting believers for the forgiveness of sins
- Weekly observance of Communion on Sunday
- Practice of a cappella singing, and the rejection of instrumental music, in worship. Page 12



Members of the churches of Christ believe that Jesus founded only one church, that the current divisions among Christians do not express God's will, and that the only basis for restoring Christian unity is the Bible. They identify simply as "Christians", without other religious or denominational identification. They believe that they are recreating the New Testament church as established by Christ. ~Wikipedia Page 13

Romans 16:16 - Greet one another with a holy kiss. The Churches of Christ greet you.



A primary motivation behind the name is the desire to use a scriptural or Biblical name – to identify the church using a name that is found in the New Testament, and not after a man (Luther, Calvin, ect.)

Congregations are generally overseen by a plurality of elders who are sometimes assisted in the administration of various works by

deacons.

- Elders are generally seen as responsible for the spiritual welfare of the congregation, while deacons are seen as responsible for the non-spiritual needs of the church.
- Elders and deacons are appointed by the congregation based on the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 Page 15

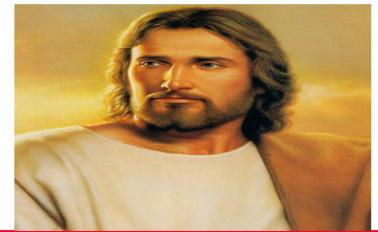
In a nutshell...

R O

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"And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven."

"I disagree."

Mat 23:9 *Jesus was against using 'titles'
No special titles are used for preachers or ministers that would identify them as "clergy".
Churches of Christ emphasize that there is no distinction between "clergy" and "laity" and that every member has a gift and a role to play in accomplishing the work of the church. ~Wiki^{age 16}

Listing of Spiritual Gifts



The gifts in italics are repeated in one of the other passages.

1Cor 13:8 Love will never end. But all those gifts will come to an end--even the gift of prophecy, the gift of speaking in different kinds of languages, and the gift of knowledge. ~ERV
 *Miraculous gifts are no more.



The Churches of Christ generally combine the lack of any historical evidence that the early church used musical instruments in worship and the belief that there is no scriptural support for using instruments in the church's worship service to decide that instruments should not be used today in worship. Churches of Christ have historically practiced a cappella music in worship. Scriptural backing given by members for the practice of a cappella includes:

Matt. 26:30: "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." Rom. 15:9: "Therefore I will praise thee among the Gentiles, and sing to thy name"; Eph. 5:18,19: "... be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart,"

1 Cor. 14:15: "I will sing with the Spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

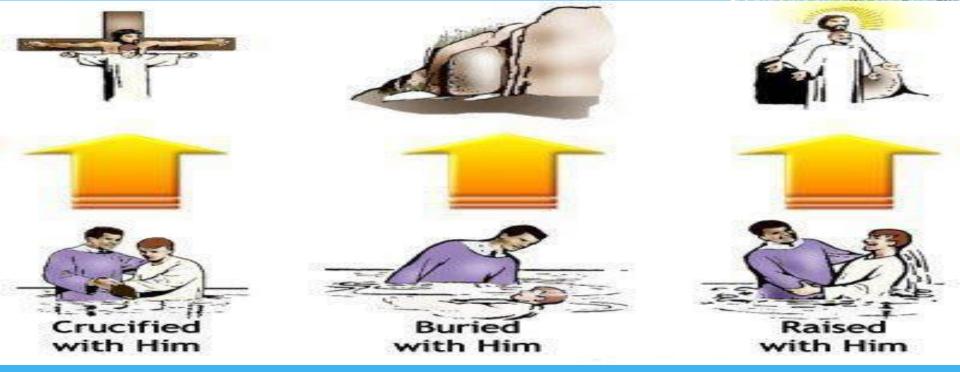
Col. 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God."

Heb. 2:12: "I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee." ~KJV Page 20



*We meet on Sunday to take Communion. Act 20:7 On Sunday we all met together to eat the Lord's Supper. Paul talked to the group. Because he was planning to leave the next day, he continued talking until midnight. ~ERV Page 21 Luk 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

Luk 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. ~KJV Page 22



Baptism in Churches of Christ is performed only by bodily immersion, based on the Koine Greek verb $\beta \alpha \pi \tau i \zeta \omega$ (baptizō) which is understood to mean to dip, immerse, submerge or plunge. Immersion is seen as more closely conforming to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus than other methods. ~Wikipedia

Salvation Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me, thank you for dying on the cross for me. Jesus, please forgive me for all the evil things that I have done. I am sorry. Jesus, I want to be a child of God and follow

you, please teach me to do what is right. Jesus, I want You to be my Lord and Savior, please come into my Heart, and fill me with your Holy Spirit. Jesus, please protect me from the evil one, and save me, so that I may go to Heaven with You. I also pray that you would save my friends and family. I love you Jesus, I want to know You, and be close to you. In Jesus name I pray, Amen NAME:

*Sinner's Prayer in not found in The Holy Bible

- * 'Accepting Jesus into your heart...'
- *Belief/Confession.. Words are not enough, you must take action by being baptized for the forgiveness of sins! Page 24

baptism let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins

Acts

2:3

1Pe 3:21 And that water is like baptism, which now saves you. Baptism is not the washing of dirt from the body. It is asking God for a clean conscience. It saves you because Jesus Christ was raised from death. ~ERV

WHAT MUSTIDO TOBE SAVED? Both Jesus and the apostles (guided by the Holy Spirit) taught that to be saved, it is necessary that one:		
Hear	Romans 10:13-1 Revela	7 John 6:45 ition 1:3
Believe	John 2:30-31 Acts	Hebrews 11:6 16:31
Repent	Luke 13:3-5 Acts 1	Acts 2:38 7:30-31
Confess	Matthew 10:32-33 Romans 10:9-10	
Be Baptized	Mark 16:15-16 Acts 2:38	1 Peter 3:21 Acts 22:16
Live Godly	Titus 2:11-14 2 Peter	Romans 12:1-2 r 1:5-11

The Great Commission

"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have Commanded you: and, lo, I am with you Always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Jesus Matthew 28:19-20