

Just Christians

Today, many have become tired of and confused by human creeds, human names, and denominational church organizations. Are you one who is seeking to return to the simplicity of New Testament Christianity? We can all be just Christians. We can establish the right relationship with God and never affiliate with any human denominational body. How can we do this?

First, by following the Bible only, we can be sure to speak just as God would have us speak. Peter said, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11)." Paul said, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God. . . . That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim 3:16-17)." God has given us His complete and divine word. God warns us not to change or alter it in any manner. Paul warned those that do, "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed (Gal 1:6-8)." John concludes the Revelation with a similar warning, "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book (Rev. 22:18)." John also warned those who take away from the "words of the book of this prophecy (Rev 22:19)."

Second, by accepting the Christ as our only creed and the Bible as our only guidebook, we will never accept an error, nor will an erroneous creed book or doctrine prevent us from knowing the truth as God presents it. Jesus said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32)." To this he added, "Sanctify them in truth: your word is truth (John 17:17)."

Third, by restoring the church as it existed in the first century, we can have exactly the church that Christ built (Matt. 16:18). The congregations of the New Testament were churches of Christ. Rom. 16:16 tells us, "All the churches of Christ salute you." The Bible describes the church with other names that speak to the relationships that we members sustain. Among them are *the church of God* (1 Cor. 1:2), *the body of Christ* (1 Cor. 12:27), and *the household of faith* (Gal. 6:10). The Bible never uses sectarian or human names to describe the church of Christ or its individual members (Acts 11:26; 1 Cor. 1:10-17).

Finally, by accepting God's plan just as it is in the Bible, we can know what to do to be saved. We must do the will of the Father (Matt. 7:21-23). God's will for our salvation is in specific terms. Acts 2:37-41 says that those who repented and were baptized for the remission of their sins were saved, and the Lord added them to the church.