

A Plea for Christ

Churches of Christ plead for the restoration of the apostolic church. This means a return to the original ground of the New Testament church. One must go back beyond all human creeds, councils, synods, and ecclesiastical authorities to the very teaching of Christ and his apostles. There one will find the original church of Christ in its true faith, worship, and practice. This plea involves seven principles:

1. *It is a plea for the name of Christ.* Salvation is in the name of Christ (Luke 24:47; Acts 4:12). Christians are those who wear Christ's name and live as he directs (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16).
2. *It is a plea for the divinity of Christ.* Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God. This truth was the central teaching of the apostles (Acts 2; Acts 8:36-39).
3. *It is a plea for the word of Christ.* We must reject all human creeds as incomplete and, in many cases, erroneous. The word of Christ is sufficient to meet all our spiritual needs (2 Tim. 16:17).
4. *It is a plea for the authority of Christ* (Mt. 28:18-20). The will of Christ is in the New Testament (covenant or will), and no one has the right to change it. We must base all of our beliefs and practices on his truth as revealed in his word. The Holy Spirit revealed all truth to the apostles, and this constitutes the complete spiritual guide for all time (John 14:16-16,26; John 16:13; Rev. 22:18-19).
5. *It is a plea for the church of Christ.* Christ bought his church with his blood (Acts 20:28). God adds to the church those that are saved (Acts 2:47). Salvation belongs to those who believe, repent, confess, and are baptized unto the remission of sins (Rom. 10:17; John 8:24; Lk 13:3; Rom. 10:10; Acts 2:38).
6. *It is a plea for unity in Christ.* The church was united in the first century and should be united today (John 17:20-21; Eph. 4:1-6).
7. *It is a plea for dedication and godly living in Christ* (Mt. 5:1-16; Phil. 2:15).

Only by following the truth can we create the true church in this present time. Peter admonished, "If any man speaks, *speaking* as it were oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11)." By replicating what is in the oracles of God, we can restore the apostolic church in the twenty-first century.