

## Being Christians Only

Have you considered the possibility of being just a non-denominational Christian? Are you one of the many searchers for truth? Do the many divisions within Christendom confuse you? You will find your answers looking to Jesus and His inspired word (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16). There you will learn that Jesus established His church fifty days after His resurrection—hundreds of years before the religious divisions as they are today came into existence (Mt. 16:13-20; Mark 9:1; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-47).

The early disciples were all in one church (Eph. 4:4; Eph.1:22-23). They were called simply Christians (Acts 11:26). They did not follow different creed books, but were guided by “the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).” This faith was spoken by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19-21). We all have this inspired guide today in the New Testament.

We can reproduce pure Christianity today by following Jesus’ directions in the New Testament (Luke 8:11). The first four books of the New Testament are written, “that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:31).” The fifth book, Acts of the Apostles, tells believers in Christ what they need to do to be saved (Acts 2:38-39; Acts 18:8; Acts 22:16). The next twenty-one books, Romans-Jude, tell how to live the Christian life. In the last book, The Revelation of John, Jesus told John, “Write therefore the things which you saw, the things which are, and the things which shall come to pass hereafter (Rev. 1:19).”

When you obey the command of Christ, God adds you to the nondenominational body, the church (Acts 2:47). You become a member of the church which Christ built (Mt. 16:18) and to which Peter, James, and John belonged.

Churches of Christ everywhere plead for the restoration of the church just as the New Testament described it. By restoring the name, organization, worship, and practice of the New Testament church, we can all be a part of that nondenominational body, as it existed in the first century (Col. 1:18). To restore involves stripping away the many layers of non-biblical teaching—as one would strip layers of paint off of a priceless antique—and getting to the true church as Jesus and his apostles and prophets described it in the New Testament.

The church that Jesus built (Mt. 16:18) in the first century can be a reality for all of us living in the twenty-first century.