

## What Is the Church of Christ?

During his personal ministry, Jesus promised to build his church (Mt. 16:13-19). A detailed account of the fulfillment of this promise is in the Bible. The New Testament reveals these specific points and facts of faith and practice, which are important to everyone desiring to please the Lord.

1. Penitent believers were baptized for the remission of sins and the Lord added them to the church (Acts 2:37-38, 47). There is no example of anyone being voted into the church.
2. The church was not a denomination. The Bible never uses this word in relation to the church (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 1:1-2; Rom. 16:16).
3. Christ's followers wore the name *Christian* (Acts 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:16). Denominational names came centuries later.
4. The church was governed by the word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 John 9). The New Testament church did not use creed books or catechisms.
5. The church worshipped on every first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2; Heb. 10:25).
6. The church observed the Lord's Supper (communion) on every first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
7. The church used vocal music in worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
8. The church gave their financial resources on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2). There is no authority to use other means to raise money; such as raffles, suppers, etc.
9. The church called preachers evangelists or ministers (2 Tim. 4:5; Eph. 4:12; 1 Thess. 3:1-2; Eph. 6:21). They did not call preachers pastor or give them the title of Reverend (Mt. 25:5-11).
10. The early church had overseers, also called pastors and elders, in every congregation (Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-7).
11. Each congregation had deacons to serve the congregation (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim 3:12-13; Phil. 1:1).

Paul taught that "You might learn not *to go* beyond the things which are written (1 Cor 4:6)." He pronounces serious judgment on those who do: "If any man preaches unto you any gospel other than that which you received, let him be anathema (Gal 1:9)."