

# Churches of Christ: Who Are We?

**Acts 2:42-47**

# **Churches of Christ: Who Are We?**

- **13,000+ congregations in USA**
  - 1.5 million adherents
- **27,000+ congregations world wide**
  - 2 million adherents
- **Each congregation autonomous**
  - No Human creed, No Catechism, No Confession of Faith, No Ecclesiastical hierarchy, No convention or conference
  - Just preaching the gospel of Christ

# Sadly, There is Some Division!

- **1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 1:10**, *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*
  - Each division from the truth is a denomination
- **Eph. 4:4-6**, *“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

# In Spite of Division

- Churches of Christ are generally bound together by three common factors:
  - A common love for God, His son-Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit
  - A common love for each other
  - A common commitment to a biblical faith, work, worship, & teaching of the scripture
- When commitment to these truths fail, man fails to walk with God
  - **1<sup>st</sup> John 1:7**, *“if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*

# Society's Definition of "Church"

- Dictionary Definition
  - "**Church**" - *a building for public worship*
  - "**Denomination**" - used as a synonym
- Dictionary definitions are common usage
  - "**Church**" never used in scripture to mean building or denomination
  - Money divided into denominations
  - Lord's "**Church**" not a denomination

# God Never Divides, Just Man

- **Matt. 16:18**, Jesus said, “...*thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”
- **Acts 20:28**, Paul told Ephesian Elders, “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*”

# Churches of Christ, What Do We Believe?

**Simple, We are to believe  
what the Bible teaches!**

**Nothing More, Nothing Less**

# **We Believe, Because the Bible Teaches, One God, Manifested in Three Ways**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 8:4**, *“...there is none other God but one...”*
- **Matt. 6:9**, Jesus prayed, *“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven...”*
- **John 1:1,14, 34**, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.”*
- **1<sup>st</sup> John 5:7**, *“...there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”*
  - **The Planner, The Procurer, The Revealer**

# **We Believe, Because the Bible Teaches, The Bible is the Inspired Word of God**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Tim. 3:16-17**, *“ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*
- **Rev. 22:18-19**, *“If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”*

# **We Believe,** **Because the Bible Teaches:**

- **Any human creed containing:**
  - More than the Bible is too much
  - Less than the Bible is too little
  - The same as the Bible is useless & superficial
- **Therefore the Bible:**
  - Is our absolute authority
  - Supplies all direction needed in this life
  - Supplies all direction needed to get to heaven

# **We Believe, Because the Bible Teaches, Some Behavior is Sinful**

- **Not judgmental, just a fact**
  - **Rom. 3:23, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God”**
  - **Rom. 5:12, “As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”**
  - **Rom. 6:23, “...the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. “**
- **Those who have grown to mental accountability have sinned**

# Not Born in Sin

- No one “totally depraved”
  - Ezekiel 18:20, *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”*
- We became sinners after we were born
  - Psalm 58:3, *“The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.”*

# Can't Save Ourselves

- Our iniquities separated us from God
  - **Isa. 59:2**, *“...your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”*
- Must appeal to God's grace
  - **Eph. 2:8-10**, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

# **We Believe, Because the Bible Teaches, Sinners Must Believe in God's Son to be Forgiven of Sins**

- **John 3:16**, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*
- **John 8:24**, *“...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”*
- **John 8:31**, *“If you abide in my word, you are my disciples.”*
- **Luke 6:46**, *“Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”*

# **We Believe, Because the Bible Teaches, Sinners Must Repent to be Forgiven of Sins**

- **Jesus preached repentance more than any of the other Bible preachers/writers**
  - **Luke 13:3, 5, “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish....I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”**
  - **Luke 24:27, “...repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”**

# **We Believe, Because the Bible Teaches, Sinners Must Confess**

**“Jesus Christ is the Son of God”.**

- **Matt. 10:32-33**, *“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”*
- **Acts 8: 37**, *“And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”*

# **We Believe, Because the Bible Teaches, Sinners Must Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins**

- **Acts 2:38**, *“Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*
- **Gal. 3:27**, *“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*
- **Acts 22:16**, *“Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins.”*

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- **We Believe, Because the Bible Teaches:**
  - **One God, Manifested in Three Ways**
    - God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit
  - **Bible is the Inspired Word of God**
  - **Some Behavior is Sinful**
  - **Not born in sin**
  - **Can't save ourselves**
  - **Must Believe, Repent, Confess, & be Baptized for remission of our sins**