

The background is a dark, vertically-planked wooden wall. A spotlight shines down from the top center onto a faint, circular outline that frames the text. In the bottom left corner, there are two wooden crates, one larger than the other.

WHY I LOVE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:22-32

EPHESIANS 5:22-32 (NKJV)

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

EPHESIANS 5:22-32 (NKJV)

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

EPHESIANS 5:22-32 (NKJV)

28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

EPHESIANS 5:22-32 (NKJV)

31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.



To Clarify

NOT Professing Love For:

- A building with a sign ...
- ... ANY manmade organization or denomination! — 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 2 Cor 12:20
- ... Only those who subscribe to a particular man made tradition or pattern! — Mat. 15:7-9, 13; Rom. 10:1-3



To Clarify

I Am **PROFESSING LOVE** For

- ... what Jesus gave His life for — Acts 20:28; Eph 5:25; Gal 2:20; 1 Pet 1:18-21
- ... the body of which Jesus is the head — Eph 1:22,23; 4:4; 5:22; Col. 1:18
- ... ALL the saved in Christ — Gal. 3:26,27; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph 5:25; Col. 1:13; etc.
- Local groups who adhere to the doctrine of Christ — Rom 16:16; 2 Cor. 11:28

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

DESCRIPTION	PASSAGE	JESUS	RELATIONSHIP
“church”	(Acts 8:3, etc.)	Calls us ...	The Called Out
“church of God”	(Acts 20:28)	Paid The Price	Purchased of God
“body of Christ”	(1 Cor. 12:27)	Headship	Members
“kingdom of God”	(Rom. 14:17)	Kingship	Citizens
“family of God”	(1 Tim. 3:15)	Son	Children
“temple of God”	(1 Cor. 3:16)	High Priest	Serve / Worship
“church of the firstborn”	(Heb. 12:23)	Heir	Fellow Heirs
“churches of Christ”	(Rom. 16:16)	Owner	Belonging to Jesus

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST


Because of Origin ...

**Ephesians 5:23
(NKJV)**

²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because of Origin ...

- 
- A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a Bible. The person is wearing a blue and white checkered shirt. The Bible has a gold-colored cover and is open, showing text on the pages. The hands are positioned to hold the Bible firmly, with fingers visible on the edges.
- “I will build MY CHURCH” - Matt. 16:18
 - “The Lord added to THE CHURCH daily” - Acts 2:47
 - IT IS OF GOD - NOT MAN! — Mat. 15:13
 - It still exists today — (the seed principle) — Luke 8:11; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; Acts 2:38-47; Col. 1:13

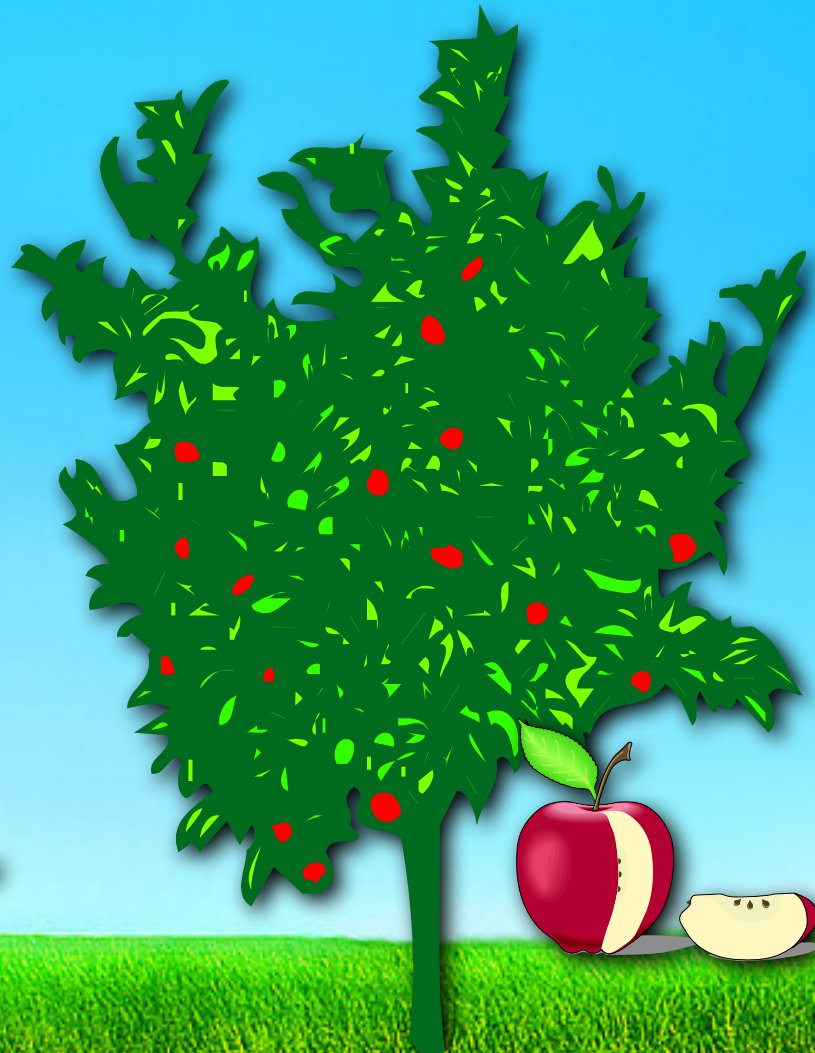
Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

After Its Own Kind ...

Corn



Apple



Acorn

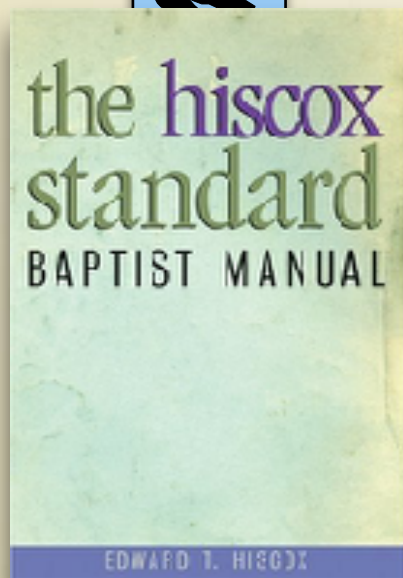
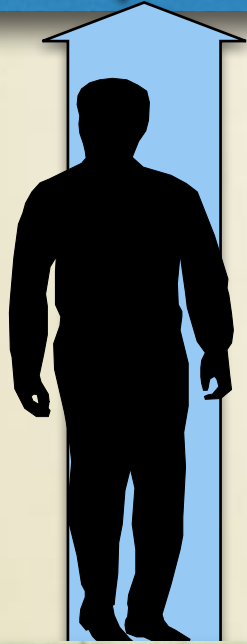


Genesis 1:12

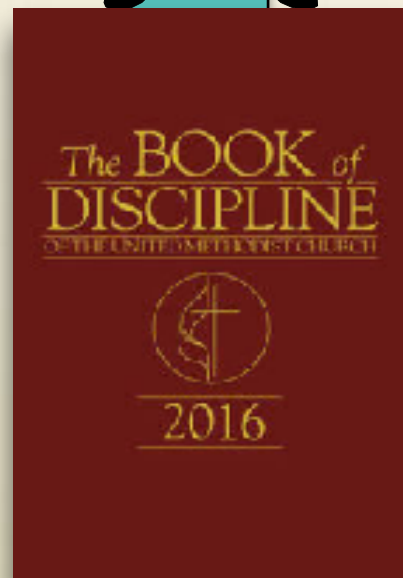
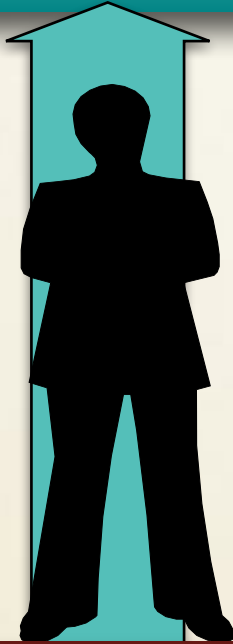
WHY I LOVE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

After Its Own Kind ...

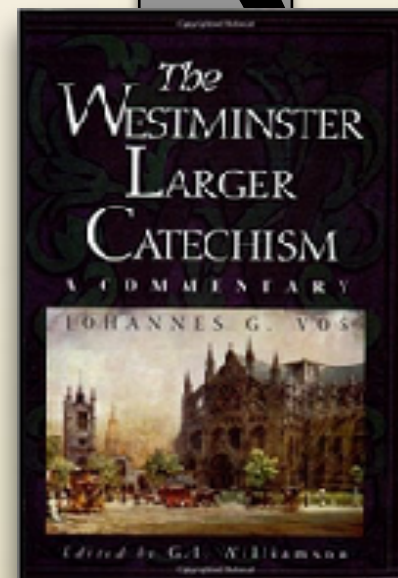
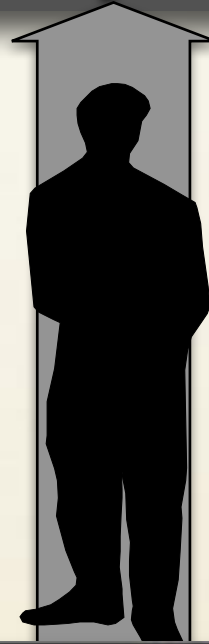
Baptist



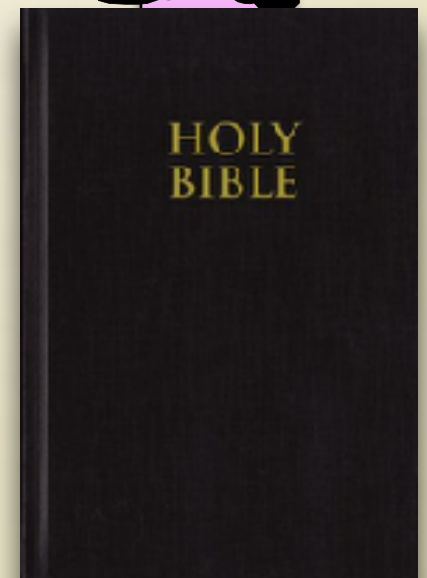
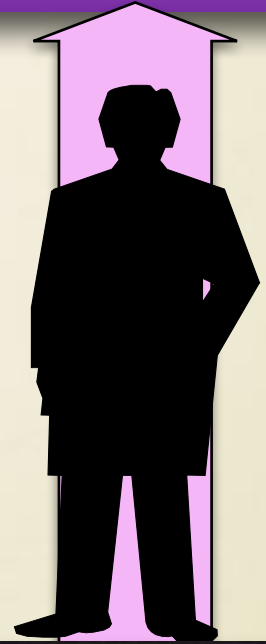
Methodist



Presbyterian



Christian



Luke 8:11

WHY I LOVE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

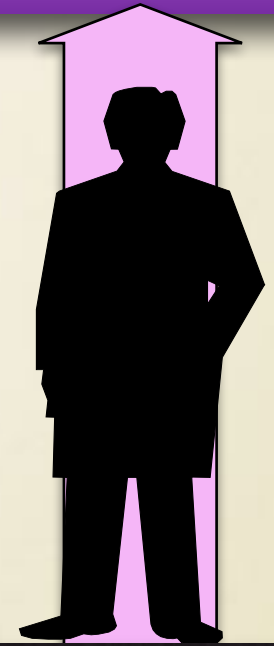
After Its Own Kind ...

Following ONLY The Bible



A CHURCH Belonging To Jesus

Christians



HOLY
BIBLE

The Lord's CHURCH Submits To HIM

Luke 8:11

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because It SUBMITS

Ephesians 5:24
(NKJV)

²⁴ Therefore, just as
the church is
subject to Christ, so
let the wives be to
their own husbands
in everything.\

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because It SUBMITS

- 
- The church of Christ FOLLOWS the teaching of Christ - Eph 5:24; Col. 3:17; Jn 10:27; 2 Jn 9
 - ✳ **How to be saved** - Acts 2:14-38; 16:30-33 ...
 - ✳ **Organization** — Phili. 1:1
 - ✳ **Worship** — Jn 4:24; Eph 5:19; Acts 20:7; etc.
 - ✳ **Work** - Evangelism / edification / benevolence - Eph 4:11 - 16; 1 The 1:8; Acts 2:42 ff ...

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because It SUBMITS

**1 Timothy 3:15
(NKJV)**

¹⁵ but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.



Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because It SUBMITS

■ SUBMITS TO THE
AUTHORITY OF CHRIST:

- ✱ Abides in the teaching, i.e., what Christ has revealed - not what He hasn't ... 2 Tim 3:16,17; 2 John 9;
- ✱ Does NOT follow the doctrines and commandments of men - Mat. 15:7-9, 13;

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because Jesus Does

■ HE gave His life for it —

**Ephesians 5:25
(NKJV)**

²⁵ Husbands, love
your wives, just as
Christ also loved
the church and gave
Himself for her,

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because Jesus Does

■ HE gave His life for it —

Ephesians 5:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because Jesus Does

■ HE gave His life for it —

Acts 20:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because Jesus Does

■ HE gave His life for it —

**1 Peter 1:18–19
(NKJV)**

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers,
¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because It Is Blessed

Ephesians 5:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.



Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because It Is Blessed

■ The church IS all who are in Christ Jesus! — Ephesians 1:3-16; 5:23

- * The chosen - 4
- * Beloved - 4
- * Predestined - 5
- * Adopted - 5
- * Accepted - 6
- * Redeemed - 7-10
- * An inheritance - 11

Why I Love The CHURCH of CHRIST

Because It Is Blessed

Outside Christ Lost Without Hope

NO spiritual blessings –
NOT chosen –
NOT children of God –
NOT accepted –
NO redemption –
NO forgiveness –
NO relationship –
NO assurance –
NO heavenly Inheritance

**Baptized
Into**

**Rom. 6:3-6
Gal. 3:26,27
Acts 2:38,47**

In Christ / His CHURCH Saved / Hope

ALL spiritual blessings
Chosen –
A child of God –
Accepted –
Redeemed –
Forgiven –
Reconciled –
Assurance –
A Heavenly Inheritance

WHY I LOVE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

- Because of its ORIGIN ...
- Because it SUBMITS ...
- Because Jesus does ...
- Because it is & will be BLESSED ...

Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:22-32

IF I LOVE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

- I will seek to build it up ... Heb 10:24,25
- I will strive to serve within it ... Eph 4:16
- I will willingly sacrifice for it ... 1 Jn 3:17
- I will support its efforts ... 2 Cor. 8,9

Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:22-32

DO YOU LOVE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

- Will you let the Lord ADD you to His church - Acts 2:38-47
- Will you submit to Jesus as your HEAD? - Eph 5:23; Col. 3:17
- Will you follow the Lord & be BLESSED? - 1 Cor. 15:58

Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:22-32

WHY I LOVE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Preached May 13, 2018

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ACTS 20:22-32 (NKJV)

²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

ACTS 20:22-32 (NKJV)

²⁵ “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

ACTS 20:22-32 (NKJV)

²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. ³² “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.