



*Is The Church of
CHRIST A
Biblical Church?*

What's
Wrong/Right
With The
Church of Christ?

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church? 2



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Questions.org*

Is the Church of Christ a good biblical church?

- There have been many questions & objections raised regarding the “church of Christ”
 - ◆ “Questions a church of Christ preacher cannot answer” - So says David Martin of the so-called “Rock Solid Baptist Church”
 - ◆ “Is the church of Christ denomination a cult” - Freedom Quest Ministries - <http://www.chocd.org>
- Regardless of the answers given, (even if the answers are Biblically sound), many refuse to listen, or even objectively consider their legitimacy. - [Stephen answered the Sanhedrin but not as they deemed “satisfactorily” (Acts 7:54-60)] -

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church? 3



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Is the Church of Christ a good biblical church?

Answer: This is a difficult question to answer due to the phrase "Church of Christ" being such a broad description. There are many churches who refer to themselves as the "Church of Christ." Even within the most widespread "Church of Christ" denomination, there can be significant differences between the churches. There is no doubt that many in the Church of Christ denomination are genuine believers in Christ who desire to truly worship, follow, and obey Him. At the same time, there are others in the Church of Christ, and some Church of Christ churches, that are borderline cult-like in their preferences, practices, and doctrines. We are by no means disparaging the entire Church of Christ denomination or every church that refers to itself as the "Church of Christ." The purpose of this article is to express some concerns and answer some questions about the Church of Christ that we have observed and experienced.

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Church-of-Christ.html>

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

A Biblical Understanding of The Church Jesus Built

All Christians Everywhere

**“CHURCH”
In The
Universal
Sense**

- “I will build **MY CHURCH**” - Matt. 16:18
- “The Lord added to **THE CHURCH** daily”
- Acts 2:47
- “there is **ONE BODY**” - Eph. 4:4
- “He is also head of the **BODY, the CHURCH**” - Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23
- “He is the Savior of **THE BODY**” -
Eph 5:23,24

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

A Biblical Understanding of The Church Jesus Built

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

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A Biblical Understanding of The Church Jesus Built

Christians In A Specific Area

**“CHURCH”
In The
LOCAL
Sense**

- **Christians - who continue steadfastly in the apostles doctrine ... (Acts 2:36-47)**
- **Agree to join together in fellowship - (Acts 9:26).**
- **Worship in a common assembly – (1 Cor. 11:18)**
- **Work out of a common treasury – (1 Cor.16:1-3)**
- **Submit to a common oversight – (Acts 14:23; 20:28)**

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A Biblical Understanding of The Church Jesus Built

Christians In A Specific Area

**“CHURCH”
In The
LOCAL
Sense**

- **“the church of God which is at Corinth” - (1 Cor. 1:2)**
- **“the church of the Thessalonians in God” - (1 Thess. 1:1).**
- **“the churches of Galatia” - (1 Cor. 16:1).**
- **“the churches of the saints” - (1 Cor. 14:33).**
- **“the churches of Christ” - (Rom. 16:16).**
- **“the churches” - (Acts 8:3; 15:41, etc., etc.).**
- **“The Seven churches of Asia” - (Rev 2,3)**



A.D. 30

The Lord's church

Acts 2:47

- ✓ In relation to God's calling:
"saints" (1 Cor. 1:1-2)
- ✓ In relation to the gospel:
"believers" (1 Thess. 1:7)
- ✓ In relation to Christ:
"Christians" (Acts 11:26)
- ✓ In relation to the Father:
"children of God" -
(1 Jn. 3:1)
- ✓ In relation to Christ's teaching: **"disciples"** -
(Acts 6:7)
- ✓ In relation to one another:
"brethren" (1 Cor. 1:10)

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

WHAT IS A DENOMINATION?

Merriam-Webster

4 : a religious organization uniting local congregations in a single legal and administrative body

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz/FamilyHistory/Glossary>

“A group of religious congregations united under a common faith and name and organized under a single administrative and legal hierarchy, e.g., Anglicans, Presbyterians, Catholics etc.”



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Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

A Biblical Understanding of The Church Jesus Built



**“CHURCH”
In The
Universal
Sense**

A Denomination
is smaller than
the universal
church, but larger
than the local
church. **Such is
not found in the
New Testament**



**“CHURCH”
In The
LOCAL
Sense**



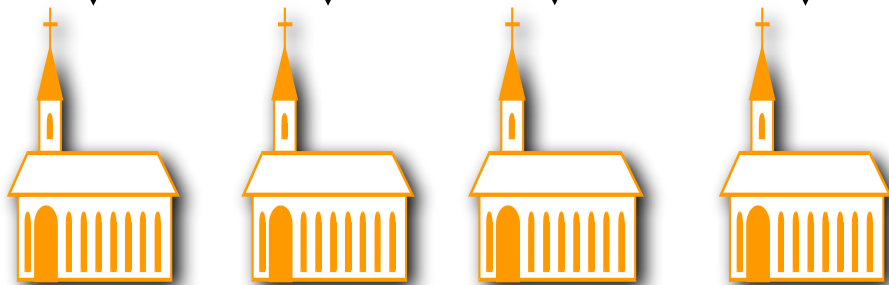
A.D. 30
The
Lord's
church
Acts 2:47

- 606. Roman Catholic Church
- 1054. Greek Orthodox Church
- 1530. Lutheran Church
- 1534. Church of England
- 1536. Presbyterian Church
- 1611. Baptist Church
- 1739 Methodist Church
- 1830 Mormon Church
- 1844. Seventh Day Adventists
- 1886. Jehovah's Witnesses
- 1887. Church of God
- 1908. Nazarene Church
- 1911. Christian Church
- 1914. Assemblies of God

WHAT IS A DENOMINATION?

Bound together by distinct beliefs

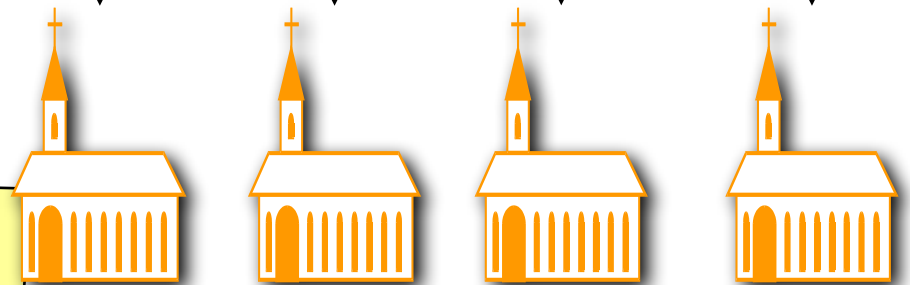
Earthly Headquarters



Baptist (1608)

Bound together by distinct beliefs

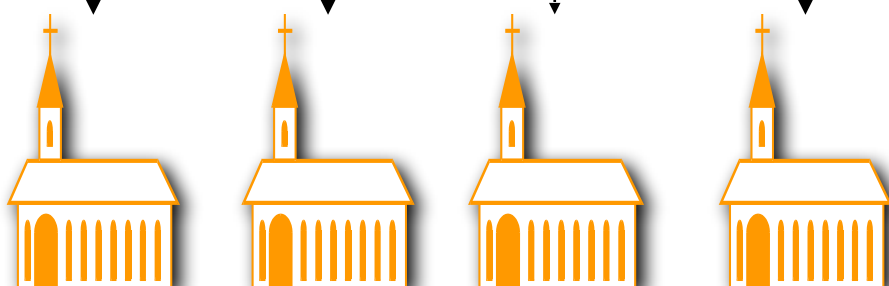
Earthly Headquarters



Presbyterian (1560)

Bound together by distinct beliefs

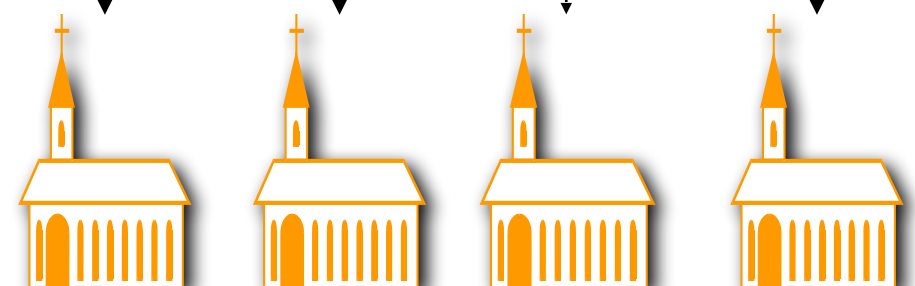
Earthly Headquarters



Methodist (1740)

Bound together by distinct beliefs

Earthly Headquarters



Pentecostal (1898)

**Divided
By
Distinction
In Belief**

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

IS DENOMINATIONALISM PLEASING TO CHRIST?

Unscriptural Concepts



1. “We're all going to heaven, just by different routes.” (*Mat. 7:13,14; John 10:9; 14:1-6; Acts 4:12; 2 John 1:9*)
2. You must not challenge or oppose somebody else's church (faith). (*2 Tim 4:2-4; Tit 1:10-2:1; Prov. 27:5; Mat 15:7-9*)
3. All denominations (belief systems) are OK. They are “parts” or “units” of the one church and the one faith (*John 15:1-8; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 4:17*). (*Different Kinds???*)

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IS DENOMINATIONALISM PLEASING TO CHRIST?

JOHN 17:20-21 (NKJV)

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone,
but also for those who will
believe in Me through their
word; ²¹ that they all may be
one, as You, Father, are in Me,
and I in You; that they also may
be one in Us, that the world may
believe that You sent Me.

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Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

IS DENOMINATIONALISM PLEASING TO CHRIST?

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-13 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

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Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

IS DENOMINATIONALISM PLEASING TO CHRIST?

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-13 (NKJV)

¹¹ For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. ¹² Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

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Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

IS DENOMINATIONALISM PLEASING TO CHRIST?

EPHESIANS 4:3-6 (NKJV)

³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

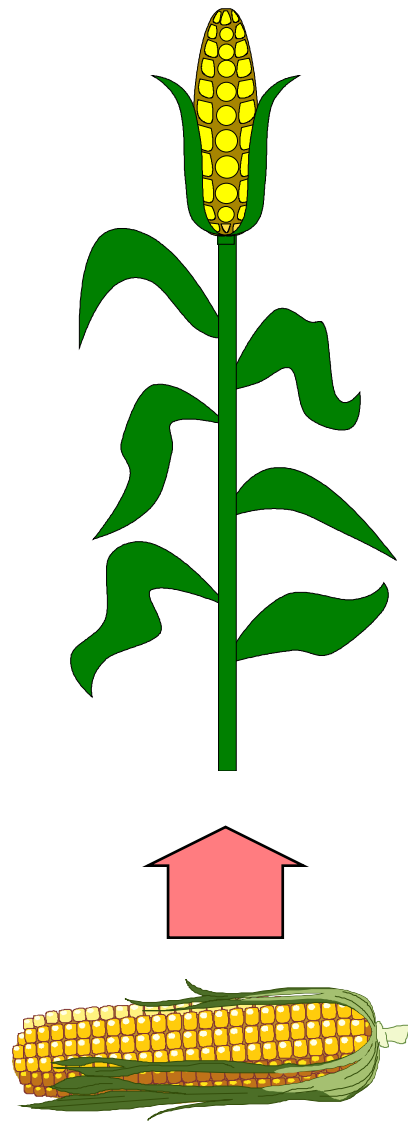
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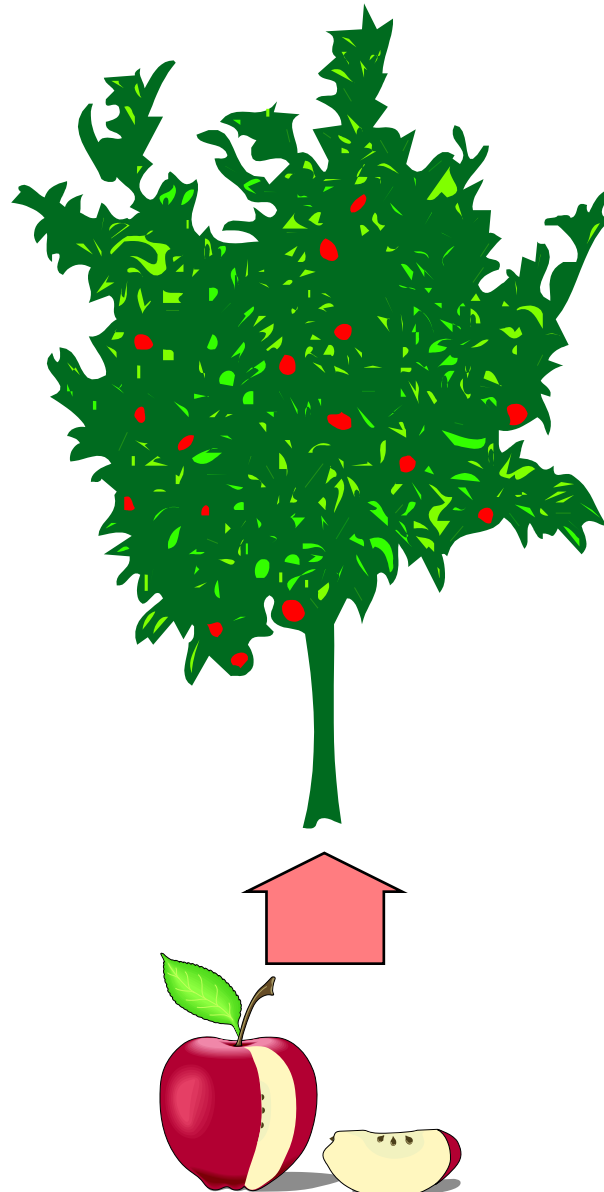
THE CURE FOR DIVISION

“According to Its Kind”

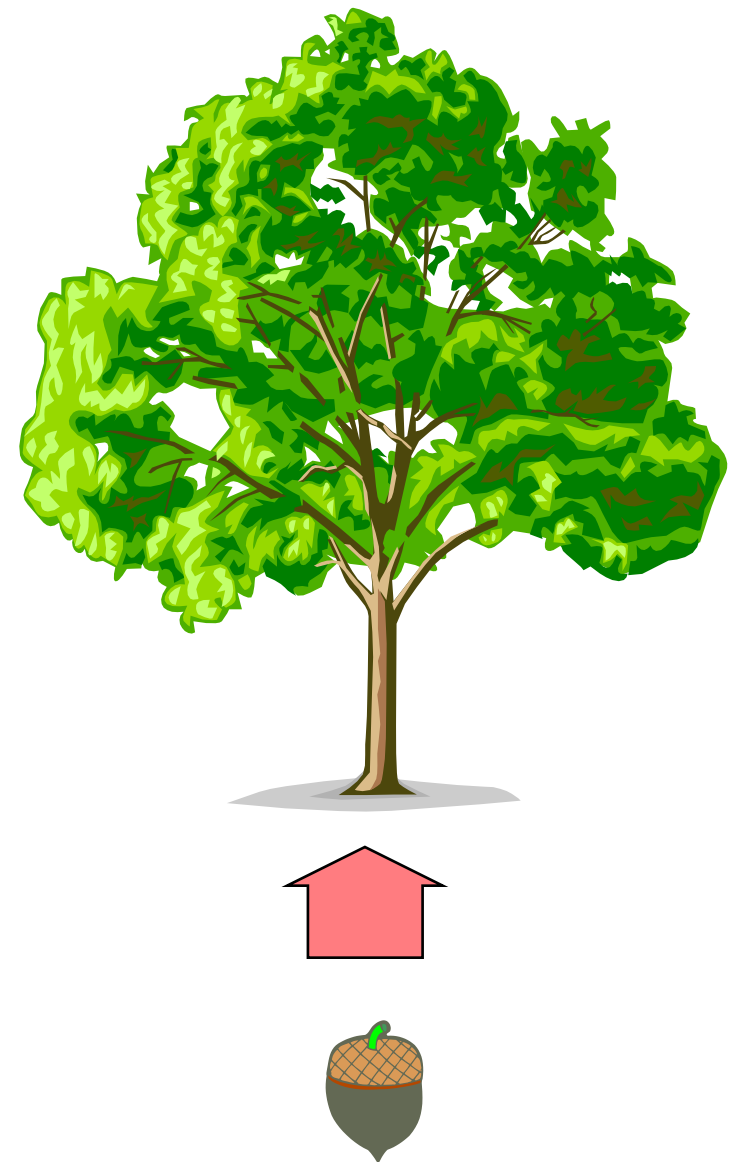
Corn



Apple

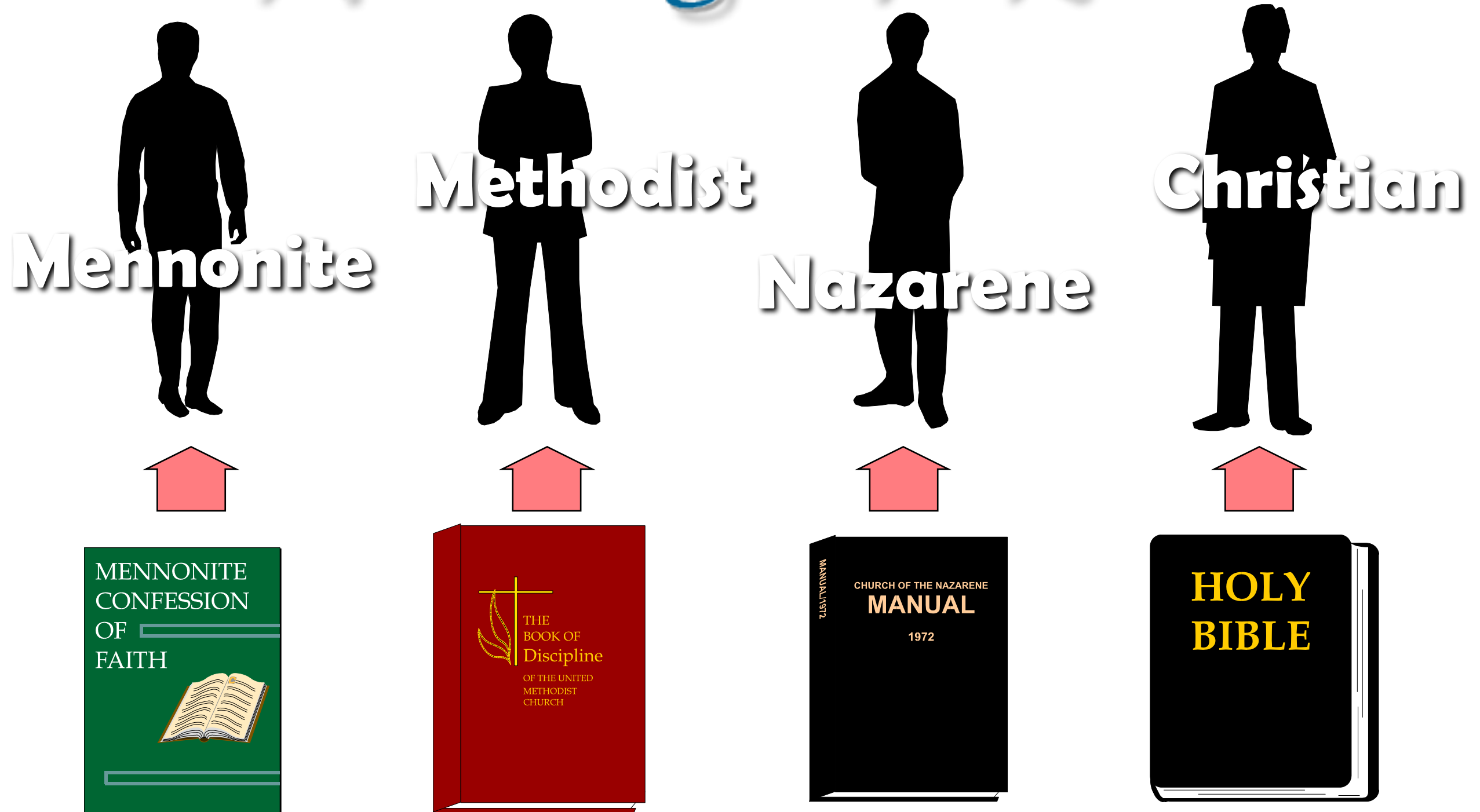


Acorn



THE CURE FOR DIVISION

“According to Its Kind”



THE CURE FOR DIVISION

And the disciples
were first called
Presbyterians in
Antioch.

And the disciples
were first called
Methodists in
Antioch.

The Bible Doesn't
Teach Me to Wear
One Name and You
to Wear Another

**... And the disciples were first called
Christians in Antioch. Acts 11:26 (NKJV)**

THE CURE FOR DIVISION

Ask Jesus to come
into your heart . . .
Say the sinners
prayer!

There is
ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING you can
do to be saved!

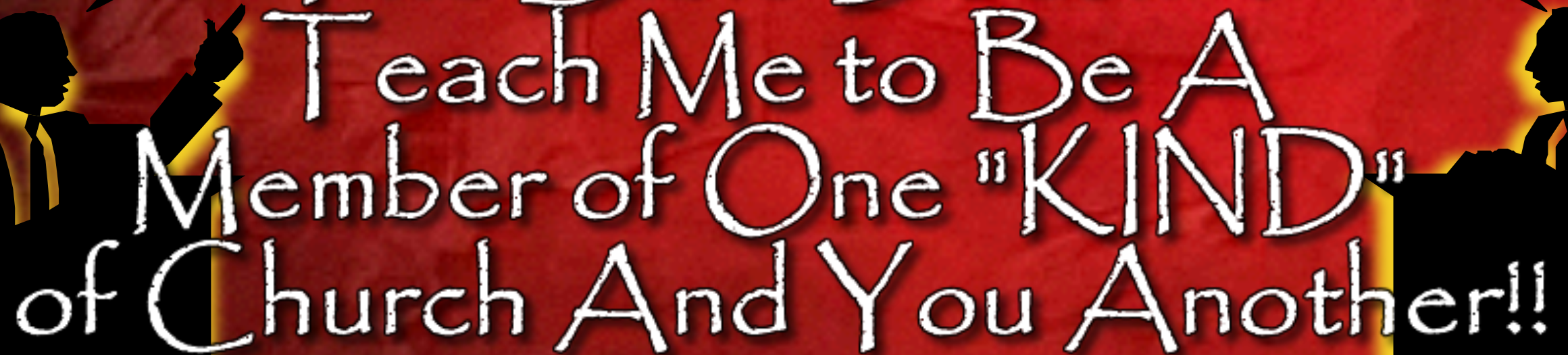
The Bible Doesn't
Teach Me to Be
Saved One Way
And You Another

**Believe, repent, confess, and be baptized
into Christ – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:9;
Rom. 6:3-6; Col. 2:11-13**

THE CURE FOR DIVISION

“I don’t think it makes any difference what CHURCH you join!”

“You have to be a member of “MY” denomination in order to go to heaven!!”



The Bible Doesn't Teach Me to Be A Member of One "KIND" of Church And You Another!!

.. The Lord added daily to the church those who were being saved – Acts 2:47

THE CURE FOR DIVISION

BIBLICAL UNITY

- The one body is an organism, not an organization.
(Col. 1:18-24)
- Unity is NOT maintained by bringing all Christians into a “visible body of Christ”.
(2 Peter 5:1,2)
- Unity is maintained as Christians remain faithful to the revealed TRUTH of God *(Eph. 4:1-6)*.

THE CURE FOR DIVISION

- ✦ When all men will lay down their creeds, disciplines, manuals, confessions of faith, catechisms, think-so's, maybe's, and subjective feelings, and with an unprejudiced and receptive heart turn to the Word of God, then, and ONLY then, will unity result.
- ✦ We must be committed to being nothing, calling ourselves nothing, obeying nothing, and saying nothing except that which is authorized by the Word of God.

Is The Church of CHRIST A Biblical Church?

A Biblical Understanding of The Church Jesus Built

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ROMANS 16:16-20 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you. ¹⁷ Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

ROMANS 16:16-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. ²⁰ And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.