

Why Am I A Member of The Church of Christ?

Ways No One Can Become A Member of The Church of Christ

1. Born into it with infant "baptism"
2. Family or other human traditions
3. Trying to be saved in a way other than the one revealed in the gospel
4. Personal preference choosing among a variety of acceptable churches to join

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- The answer to this question depends on first who Christ is and what He demands of me and all
- First, we look at Christ and His commands for salvation and then, His one church
- To start with, I did not want to join a church of my choice but I wanted to be saved by Christ, forgiven of my sins
- To be saved, I did not say the Sinner's prayer like so many do

- I also did not wait for the Holy Spirit to miraculously save me
- What I did is what I believe the New Testament teaches all to do to be saved
- All of what I did to be saved is based on my belief in Jesus as the Son of God
- Jesus commands all who believe in Him to repent of their sins, confess Him as the Son of God and be baptized for forgiveness of their sins

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By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

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Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Act 2:29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

Rom 1:17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Act 2:30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,

Rom 10:17 So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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Act 2:31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

Act 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

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Act 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

Act 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

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By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

Act 2:35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET."

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

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By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

Act 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said*, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

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By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

Act 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

Act 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

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By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

Act 8:39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

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By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

Mat 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

Act 2:39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

Act 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

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By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

16

By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

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By Faith I Obeyed The Gospel of Jesus Christ To Be Saved

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

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When I Became A Christian Jesus Added Me To His One Church

- Jesus is the only builder and Head of His one church and has authority to save, add and command members of His one body
- When I became a Christian, was saved, forgiven of my sins, through my faith leading me to repent of my sins, confess Jesus as the Son of God and be baptized (immersed in water) for forgiveness of my sins, Jesus added me to His church, His one saved body of people

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When I Became A Christian Jesus Added Me To His One Church

- His one body is not a collection of humanly devised denominations which were established and are governed by human rather than Divine authority
- His one body is also not an institution of some type into which we are added
- It is an assembly of individuals that He adds together one by one when we are saved

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When I Became A Christian Jesus Added Me To His One Church

- No one who has not been saved in the way the gospel teaches has been saved and added to His one church
- No one who joins a human denomination is acting as a member of Jesus' one saved body
- I would not want to try to be saved in a different way than Jesus has commanded
- I would not want to be a part of a church to which Jesus did not add me

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Jesus Is Builder and Head of His One Church

Mat 16:15 He *said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

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Jesus Is Builder and Head of His One Church

Mat 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Mat 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

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Jesus Is Builder and Head of His One Church

Mat 16:20 Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

Mat 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

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Jesus Is Builder and Head of His One Church

Eph 1:22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

25

When We Obey The Gospel Jesus Saves Us and Adds Us To His One Church

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

26

When We Obey The Gospel Jesus Saves Us and Adds Us To His One Church

Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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When We Obey The Gospel Jesus Saves Us and Adds Us To His One Church

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

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When We Obey The Gospel Jesus Saves Us and Adds Us To His One Church

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

Eph 5:24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

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When We Obey The Gospel Jesus Saves Us and Adds Us To His One Church

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

Eph 5:26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

Eph 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

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Why Am I A Member of The Church of Christ?

1. By faith I obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ to be saved
2. When I became a Christian Jesus added me to His one church

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I Can Read In The New Testament How Jesus Authorizes His Church To Worship and Work Together

- Jesus reveals through the apostles' teaching in the New Testament that members of His church are to join other members together in a local church to serve Him
- He clearly defines how local churches should be described, organized, worship and work together
- He clearly defines all we need to know to live the Christian life

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I Can Read In The New Testament How Jesus Authorizes His Church To Worship and Work Together

- I am a member of His church because I not only can read about how to be saved and Jesus adding me to His one church but also I can read about how a local church should serve Him
- If we join a denominational local church, we must look to unauthorized human traditions to guide us in working and worshipping together rather than the apostles' teaching

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I Can Read In The New Testament How Jesus Authorizes His Church To Worship and Work Together

- Also, if I join a local church of Christ and they begin to teach and practice error, if I cannot encourage them to change, I can leave and join another local church or help start a new congregation

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Jesus Has Revealed All We Need To Know Through The Apostles' Teaching

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1Co 14:37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

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Jesus Has Revealed All We Need To Know Through The Apostles' Teaching

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2Ti 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

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Jesus Reveals We Must Join and Assemble With A Local Church

Act 9:26 When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.

Act 9:27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. 37

Jesus Reveals We Must Join and Assemble With A Local Church

Act 9:28 And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. 38

Jesus Reveals What Local Churches Were Called and How They Were Organized

1Co 1:1 Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

1Co 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. 39

Jesus Reveals What Local Churches Were Called and How They Were Organized

Act 14:23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Php 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

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Jesus Reveals What Local Churches Were Called and How They Were Organized

1Ti 2:11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.

1Ti 2:12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Act 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Act 8:23 "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."

Act 8:24 But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Act 20:7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

1Co 11:25 In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Eph 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Eph 5:20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Eph 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

1Co 16:3 When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

1Co 16:4 and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

2Co 11:8 I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;

2Co 11:9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

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Jesus Reveals How Local Churches Must Worship and Work Together

Luk 24:46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,

Luk 24:47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

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Jesus Reveals I Must Not Approve of and Follow Error

Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for 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.

Act 20:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

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Jesus Reveals I Must Not Approve of and Follow Error

Act 20:30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

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Why Am I A Member of The Church of Christ?

- I wanted to be saved by the blood of Jesus through faith leading to repentance, confession of Jesus as the Son of God and baptism (immersion in water) for forgiveness of my sins
- When Jesus saved me, He added me to His one church, His saved body of people
- As a member of His church, I wanted to be guided only by His Word in how I should worship and work with a local church 61

Why Am I A Member of The Church of Christ?

- As a member of His church, I wanted to be guided only by His Word in all things
- If I were a member of a denomination, I would not be saved as Jesus commands and I would not be following His Word in worshipping and working with a local church
- Why not be saved by Jesus today so you can be added to His one church, the one body of those who are saved by Him? 62

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2. When I became a Christian Jesus added me to His one church
3. I can read in the New Testament how Jesus authorizes His church to worship and work together