

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #14

I Am A Member Of The Church Of Christ Because...

IT IS SCRIPTURAL, BIBLICAL, IN NAME.

Names are important. No man would want his wife to wear another man's name. He certainly would not consider giving his children another man's name. I have never heard of a woman named Jezebel (1 Kings 18:13) or a man named Judas (Luke 22:47). Have you?

Names have always been counted as meaningful and significant, except when it comes to the name given to a church. Men have started their own church and have called it after their own name or perhaps a movement or philosophy. All kinds of names can be found in the yellow pages of the phone book and on signs in front of buildings that give honor to men instead of Christ: Baptist, Methodist, Community, Nazarene, Mormon, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran, Trinity, Christian, Pentecostal, Tabernacle, Catholic, Apostolic, Anglican, New Life, Jehovah's Witnesses, King's Cross, Church of God of Prophecy, Living Word Fellowship, Full Gospel, Seventh Day Adventist, on and on and on.

A Scriptural name, a Biblical designation, is essential. No man has a right to name the church as he desires. Why would anyone desire to call the church by any name other than what God called it? The Lord's church is referred to in the Bible by several different names, terms or designations.

The most common name is found in Acts 11:26 where it is simply called **"the church."** The word "church" in the

Greek means "called out." It describes the body of individuals who have been called out of a life of sin (1 Peter 2:9) and added to the Lord's kingdom/church (Col. 1:13-14).

It is called the **"church of God"** (1 Cor. 1:2). This shows ownership. God the Father is supreme over all.

It is called the **"body of Christ"** in 1 Corinthians 12:27. It belongs to Christ. The church is His body — His body is His church (Eph. 1:22-23). Since there is only one body (Eph. 4:4), there is only one church. The "one faith" (Eph. 4:5), is the one church.

It is called the **"house of God"** the **"church of the living God"** in 1 Timothy 3:15. This shows ownership and pictures the church as a house, a family.

In the plural (collectively) it is called **"churches of Christ"** in Romans 16:16. This shows ownership and refers to the church in various locations. Since the Lord died for the church, it is His church. No man has a right to attach their own name or some other person's name to the Lord's blood-bought body.

It is called the **"church of the first-born"** in Hebrews 12:23. Jesus is called the firstborn in Colossians 1:13-18. It is His!

God has not given men a right to be a member of a church that does not wear a scriptural name. Names are important, yea essential. To call the Lord's church by any name or designation other than what we read of or find in the Scriptures is not according to a "thus saith the Lord."

— Garland M. Robinson