

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST #3

This question is a very serious inquiry and deserves the utmost consideration. As always, let's turn to the Bible and let IT give the answer. No one should settle for anything less than what heaven has to say on any subject! Will you accept it?

Why be a member of the church of Christ? **BECAUSE THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS NON-DENOMINATIONAL.** As a matter of fact, the church of Christ began well over a thousand years before denominations ever existed. The church of Christ is "pre-denominational." The word "denomination" is a terrible, ugly, ungodly word, when applied to the church of the New Testament. The Scriptures do not speak of the church of Christ being a denomination. As a matter of fact, the very opposite is shown. The church of Christ is the undivided, unified, body of Jesus Christ the Lord.

The word "denomination" means DIVISION (DIVIDED)! Webster says it is "a value or size of a series of values or sizes (as of money)." It identifies a thing as being a smaller part of something that is larger. The church of Christ is not a "part" of something larger. It is "whole." It is the complete family of God! It lacks nothing. The Lord did not die for a denomination — a divided body. He died for His church (His body) and did not leave it up to men to choose its **name** (*church of Christ*, Rom. 16:16), its **organization** (*bishops, overseers, elders*, Acts

20:28), its **worship** (*preaching, Lord's supper*, Acts 20:7; *giving*, 1 Cor. 16:1-2; *singing*, Eph. 5:19; *praying*, Acts 2:42) or its **work** (Matt. 28:19-20).

Jesus prayed for unity, not division. In the Lord's prayer of John 17:20-23, His words were, "Neither pray I for these [apostles] alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they **all may be one**; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be **one** in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Notice again His words: "That they all may **be one**." The idea is to ...be made perfect, complete, whole, one.

The Holy Spirit demands unity. Paul writes to the church at Corinth telling them that Christians are to "**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**" (1 Cor. 1:10).

There is **one body**, not many (Eph. 4:4). The one body is the one church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). Contrary to popular belief, all the denominations do not make up the one body. Their very nature demands they be divided, not united. That is why they all teach different doctrines. Christians are to be of "*one heart and one soul*" (Acts 4:32). **The church of Christ is the church of the New Testament.** A denomination cannot make that claim.

— Garland M. Robinson