

# WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE CHURCH?

There is no “official name” of the church found in the Bible. However, that does not give men liberty to give it whatever name they desire. A name is important! It is a mark of identity. It shows possession. A wife wears the name of her husband. Children wear the name of their father. By what reasoning would anyone give the church a name of their own choosing? Such is the case when men’s names are used.

The church is referred to by several different terms, words and expressions in the New Testament. Let’s use Biblical names and designations. “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen*” (1 Peter 4:11).

Searching the Scriptures, we find:

**The church.** “*And the Lord added to the church daily...*” (Acts 2:47; 5:11; 11:22,26). This is by far the most common expression in the New Testament. Since there is but one church (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23), it’s appropriate to refer to it simply as “the church.” There is no other.

**The kingdom.** “*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son*” (Col. 1:13).

**The church of Christ.** “*The churches of Christ salute you*” (Rom. 16:16). You can’t have plural without

the singular. This name honors Christ.

**The church of God.** “*Unto the church of God which is at Corinth...*” (1 Cor. 1:2). “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood*” (Acts 20:28).

**The temple of God.** “*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God...*” (1 Cor. 3:16)?

**The bride of Christ.** Ephesians 5:22-32 uses the figure of a husband and wife and compares it to Christ and his church. As a wife is a bride to her husband, so is the church the bride of Christ. Compare also Revelation 21:2, 9; 2 Corinthians 11:2; John 3:29.

**The body of Christ.** “*And he is the head of the body, the church...for his body’s sake, which is the church*” (Col. 1:18,24). “*...Gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body...*” (Eph. 1:22-23).

**The house of God, The church of the living God.** “*...That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth*” (1 Tim. 3:15).

**The church of the firstborn.** “*To the general assembly and church of the firstborn...*” (Heb. 12:23).

What name do you wear? Where’s the scripture? Honor man or God?

—Garland M. Robinson