

ONE CHURCH? / MANY CHURCHES?

- 1) Is there only one true church?
- 2) If so, does a person have to be a member of that church to be a saved Christian?

ONE CHURCH? / MANY CHURCHES?

- This study is not to “gloat.”
- This study is out of concern.

MAJORITY



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John 17:17

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth.**



1) The word "church" (ἐκκλησία) means "called out from."

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1) The word "church" (ἐκκλησία) means "called out from."

ἐκ κλησία

ἐκ ⇒ "out of"

κλησία ⇒ "to be called"

"Church" = "the called out"

2) The church ⇒ people "called out of" the world and into a body of fellow believers.

2 Thessalonians 2:14

14 ... **He called you by our gospel, ...**

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who **called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**

2) The church ⇒ people "called out of" the world and into a body of fellow believers.

Ephesians 4:25

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for **we are members of one another.**

3) Jesus promised to build (establish) only one such church (called-out-body).

Matthew 16:18

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church,** and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

3) Jesus promised to build (establish) only one such church (called-out-body).

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 [God] put all things under [Jesus] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to **the church,**

23 **which is His body,** the fullness of Him who fills all in all.



Ephesians 4:4

4 **There is one body** and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of **your calling;**

4) The Lord Himself added people to this church when they believed enough to be baptized for the remission of sins.

Acts 2

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel **know assuredly** that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins;** and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

4) The Lord Himself added people to this church when they believed enough to be baptized for the remission of sins.

Acts 2

41 Then those who gladly received his word were **baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were **added to them**.

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Q: Who is doing the adding?

Q: To what were people being added?

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Acts 2

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church** daily those who were being saved.

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6) No unsaved person was ever added to that church.

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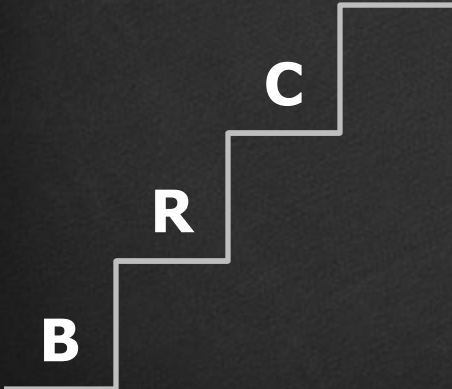
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**Church
"Body"**

The Lord adds these



Baptized



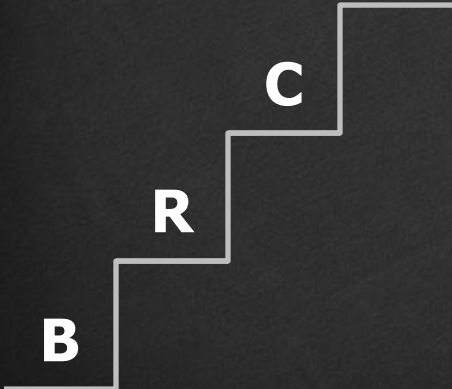
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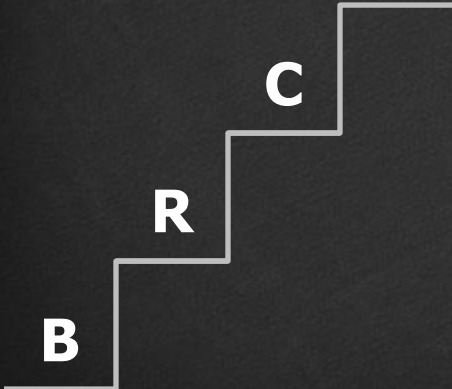
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???



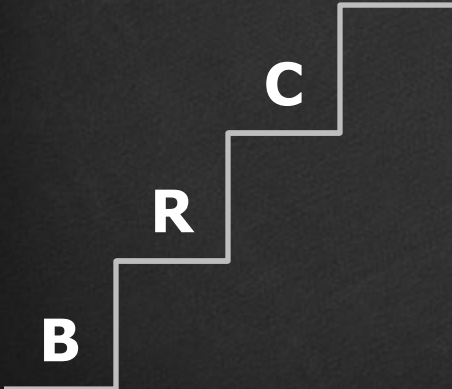
**Church
"Body"**

**All saved
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The Lord adds these



Baptized



**Never
added**



7) This body (church) was purchased by the blood of Christ.

Acts 20:28

28 ... shepherd **the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**

Ephesians 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,**

7) This body (church) was purchased by the blood of Christ.

- Church ⇔ purchased by blood of Christ
(Acts 20:28; Eph 5:25)
- If one can be saved without the church, then Jesus wasted His blood.

7) This body (church) was purchased by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 5:23

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also **Christ is head of the church;** and **He is the Savior of the body.**

8) This body (church) was founded on the teachings of Christ.

Matthew 16:18

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build My church,** and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

8) This body (church) was founded on the teachings of Christ.

Isaiah 28:16

16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:

"Behold, I lay in Zion **a stone for a foundation,**
A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure
foundation;

Whoever believes will not act hastily.



Jesus

(1 Pet 2:5-8)

8) This body (church) was founded on the teachings of Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11

11 For no other **foundation** can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**.

8) This body (church) was founded on the teachings of Christ.

Ephesians 2:19-20

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

20 having been built on **the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

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What does this mean ... **Jesus is the “foundation”???**

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- Church built on Jesus' teachings.
- "Teaching" = "Doctrine"

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Q: How much doctrine?

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Q: How much doctrine? **50% ???**

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Q: How much doctrine? **75% ???**

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19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

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Q: How much doctrine? **99% ???**

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Ephesians 2:19-20

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

20 having been built on **the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,**



Q: How much doctrine? **100% !!!**

8) This body (church) was founded on the teachings of Christ.

Matthew 7:24-27

24 "Therefore whoever hears **these sayings of Mine**, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**:

25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 "But everyone who hears **these sayings of Mine**, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

8) This body (church) was founded on the teachings of Christ.

1 John 2:3-5

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

9) The apostles taught the same doctrine to every church.

Acts 2:42

42 And **they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1 Corinthians 4:17

17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of **my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.**

10) A curse was placed upon anyone who would teach any other doctrine.

Galatians 1:8-9

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

11) Since every congregation was organized by the same doctrine, every congregation was identical in doctrine and practice.

Luke 8:11

11 "Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.**

Genesis 1:12

12 ... **seed according to its kind, ...**

- A corn seed \Rightarrow a corn plant.
- A wheat seed \Rightarrow a wheat plant.

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- Pure “seed” preached ⇒ the original church
- Why different Churches?

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- Pure “seed” preached ⇒ the original church
- Why different Churches? ⇒ **different seed**

12) The members of the church were forbidden to divide the church into different denominations.

1 Corinthians 1:10

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 [denominations] among you,** but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

13) Those causing divisions contrary to the doctrine of Christ were to be "marked and avoided."

Romans 16:17

17 Now I urge you, brethren, **mark those who cause divisions and offenses**, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and **avoid them.**

14) The one church of Christ will always exist because it is produced by a "seed" ⇒ the word of God.

Luke 8:11

11 "... **The seed is the word of God.**

Matthew 24:35

35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but **My words will by no means pass away.**

15) Any church not founded by the Lord will be "uprooted" at the end of this age.

Matthew 15:13-14

13 But He answered and said, "**Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.**

14 Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

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- Why different churches ⇒ different seed
- **One seed ⇒ one church**

15) Any church not founded by the Lord will be "uprooted" at the end of this age.

Matthew 13

24 Another parable [Jesus] put forth to them, saying: "**The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;**

25 but while men slept, **his enemy came and sowed tares** among the wheat and went his way.

26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow **good seed** in your field? How then does it have tares?' ↓

15) Any church not founded by the Lord will be "uprooted" at the end of this age.

Matthew 13

28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **"First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."**"

DIFFERENT SEED

Different Seed: **Salvation by “faith only.”**

“What does the scripture say?”
(Rom 4:3)



James 2:24

24 You see then that **a man is justified by works**, and **not by faith only**.

Mark 16:16

16 He who **believes and is baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

DIFFERENT SEED

Different Seed: **Salvation without baptism.**

“What does the scripture say?”
(Rom 4:3)



Romans 10:13

13 For "whoever **calls on the name of the LORD** shall be saved."

Acts 22:16

16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and **be baptized**, and **wash away your sins**, calling on the name of the Lord.'

DIFFERENT SEED

Different Seed: **“Once saved, always saved.”**

“What does the scripture say?”
(Rom 4:3)



Matthew 5:13

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but **if the salt loses its flavor**, how shall it be seasoned? **It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out** and trampled underfoot by men.

DIFFERENT SEED

Different Seed: **The “kingdom of God” has not come yet ... but will come soon.**

“What does the scripture say?”
(Rom 4:3)



Matthew 16:18-19

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

19 And **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

DIFFERENT SEED

Different Seed: **Women installed in leadership positions.**

“What does the scripture say?”
(Rom 4:3)



1 Corinthians 14:34-35

34 **Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak;** but they are to be submissive, as the law also says.

35 And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for **it is shameful for women to speak in church.**

DIFFERENT SEED

Different Seed: Tampering with when & how often to observe communion.

“What does the scripture say?”

(Rom 4:3)



Acts 20:7

7 Now **on the first day of the week**, when **the disciples came together to break bread**, ...

DIFFERENT SEED

Different Seed: Tampering with how to observe communion.

- Plurality of loaves.
- Breaking the loaf.
- Fermented wine.
- Plurality of cups.

DIFFERENT SEED

Different Seed: **Tampering with how to observe communion.**

“What does the scripture say?”
(Rom 4:3)



- **One unbroken loaf (1 Cor 10:16-17)**
- **Unfermented grape juice (Mt 26:17-29)**
- **One cup (1 Cor 11:23-25)**

DIFFERENT SEED

Different Seed: **Tampering with the music.**

- **Special singing groups.**
- **Mechanical instruments.**

DIFFERENT SEED

Different Seed: **Tampering with the music.**

“What does the scripture say?”
(Rom 4:3)



Ephesians 5:19

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and **making melody in your heart to the Lord,**

“**sing**” ⇔ “make music with voice”

CONCLUSION

There are not saved Christians in many churches.

- **The Lord has only one church.**
- **There are saved Christians only in the Lord's church.**

CONCLUSION

Ephesians 2:14-16

14 For He Himself is our peace, who **has made both one,** and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

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