

Church of Christ

FAQ

SHEET

When and where did the New Testament church begin?

It was prophesied that it would begin in Jerusalem.

“Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.’ For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”

(Isaiah 2:2-3)

When and where did the New Testament church begin?

It was prophesied that it would begin during the days of the Roman Empire.

“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.” **(Daniel 2:44)**

When and where did the New Testament church begin?

Jesus promised that He would build His church.

“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.” **(Matthew 16:18)**

Jesus said His kingdom would be established in the lifetime of those listening.

“And Jesus was saying to them, ‘Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.’” **(Mark 9:1)**

When and where did the New Testament church begin?

The resurrected Christ said it would begin in Jerusalem.

“Now He said to them, ‘These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.’” **(Luke 24:44-49)**

When and where did the New Testament church begin?

The Lord’s church began on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem.

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ – this Jesus whom you crucified.’ 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?’ 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. 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.’ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation!’ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” **(Acts 2:36-42)**

What or who is the founder and foundation of the church?

Jesus promised that He would build His church “upon this rock.” The “rock” was the testimony just spoken by Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

“He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ 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. 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.”

(Matthew 16:15-18)

What or who is the founder and foundation of the church?

Jesus Christ was prophesied to be the corner stone of God’s kingdom.

“Open to me the gates of righteousness; I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; The righteous will enter through it. I shall give thanks to You, for You have answered me, and You have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become **the chief corner stone**. This is the Lord’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalms 118:19-24)

Note: Jesus quoted this verse in Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, and Luke 20:17

What or who is the founder and foundation of the church?

Paul taught that Jesus Christ is the corner stone of the household of God.

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being **the corner stone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19-22)

What or who is the founder and foundation of the church?

Peter taught that Jesus Christ is the chief corner stone of His church.

“... let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead – by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became **the chief corner stone**. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:10-12)

What or who is the founder and foundation of the church?

Quoting Isaiah 28:16 and Psalms 118:22, Peter shows the fulfilled prophesy that Jesus Christ is the foretold corner stone.

“And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, **a precious corner stone**, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.’ This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, ‘The stone which the builders rejected, this became **the very corner stone**,’ and, ‘A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense’; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.” (1 Peter 2:4-8)

What or who is the founder and foundation of the church?

Jesus Christ is both the founder and the foundation of His own church.

“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a **foundation** other than the one which is laid, **which is Jesus Christ.**”

(1 Corinthians 3:9-11)

By what name is the church called?

Christ never gave His church a proper name. Instead, the church built by Jesus Christ is identified in scripture by several descriptions:

1. **"the church"** (Used 56 times: Acts 11:26 the most common term used in the Bible) – "the church" (Greek *ekklesia*) means "the called out" (W.E. Vine's dictionary of Bible words)
2. **"the body," "body of Christ," "Christ's Body"** [body = church Ephesians 1:22-23] (Used over 50 times: Colossians 1:18; Romans 7:4; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 12:27; Ephesians 4:12)
3. **"church of God" or "assembly of God"** (Used 10 times: Acts 12:5; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 10:32; 11:22; 15:9; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:13; 1 Timothy 3:5; 3:15)
4. **"churches of Christ" or "assemblies of Christ"** (used once: Romans 16:16)

By what name is the church called?

Christ never gave His church a proper name. Instead, the church built by Jesus Christ is identified in scripture by several descriptions:

5. **"the Way"** (used 7 times exclusively by Luke in Acts: Acts 9:2; 18:25; 19:9, 23; 24:14, 22)
6. **"flock"** (used 4 times: Acts 20:28-29; 1 Peter 5:2-3)
7. **"the sect, sect of the Nazarenes"** (Used 3 times: Acts 24:5,14; 28:22)
8. **"general assembly"** (Hebrews 12:23)
9. **"church of the firstborn"** (Hebrews 12:23)
10. **"church of the saints"** (1 Corinthians 14:33)

By what name is the church called?

Christ never gave His church a proper name. Instead, the church built by Jesus Christ is identified in scripture by several descriptions:

11. **"house of God"** (1 Timothy 3:15)
12. **"church of the living God"** (1 Timothy 3:15)
13. **"kingdom of God"** (Colossians 4:11 and many other passages)
14. **"kingdom of His dear Son"** (Colossians 1:13)
15. **"kingdom of Christ and of God"** (Ephesians 5:5)
16. **"family of God"/ "household of God"/ "house of God"** (1 Timothy 3:15)

To use a scriptural designation for the Lord's church, we must use a designation found in scripture!

What are its members called?

There is a proper name given to members of the Lord's church: "Christian," found 3 times.

*"And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called **Christians** in Antioch."* (Acts 11:25-26)

*"King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do." Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a **Christian**."* (Acts 26:27-28)

*"Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a **Christian**, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name."* (1 Peter 4:16)

What are its members called?

Members of the churches of men call themselves by names not found in the Bible, such as:

"Catholics," "Protestants," "Lutherans," "Baptists," "Methodists," "Pentecostals," "Anglicans," "Mormons," "Jehovah's Witnesses," "Adventists," "Mennonites," "Presbyterians," "Episcopalians," "Christian Scientists," and many more, or perhaps by a hyphenated name along with "Christian," such as "Evangelical-Christian."

The only proper name found in scripture for members of the Lord's church is "Christian."

How is one forgiven, to become a member of the church belonging to Christ?

*"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. 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**.'"* (Romans 1:16-17)

*"So **faith comes from hearing**, and hearing by the word of Christ."* (Romans 10:17)

*"... that if you **confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord**, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."* (Romans 10:9-10)

How is one forgiven, to become a member of the church belonging to Christ?

"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.'" (Acts 2:38)

"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.'" (Mark 16:15-16)

"Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number ("the church" KJV) day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:46-47)

How is one forgiven, to become a member of the church belonging to Christ?

The Lord adds one to His church, "the saved" when one, in faith, obeys His gospel and is thus forgiven of sins.

How does the church of Christ worship?

The church worships in spirit and truth.

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

The church is devoted to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:41-42)

How does the church of Christ worship?

The church observes the Lord's Supper in memory of Jesus Christ, proclaiming His death until He comes again.

"While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.' And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.'" (Matthew 26:26-29)

The church observes the Lord's Supper, as it has since the church began, on the first day of the week.

"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." (Acts 20:7)

How does the church of Christ worship?

The church worships in song, teaching, and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

"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. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

(Colossians 3:16-17)

The church collects a freewill offering, as it has since the church began, on the first day of the week.

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. 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." (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

Conclusion

The church of Christ:

- Is not a denomination.
- Does not have a modern origin and head.
- Has no earthly headquarters.
- Is the church established by Jesus and governed by His will.
- Is the church Christ purchased with His blood. (Acts 20:28)

The church of Christ is Christ's church (Simple!)

HOW TO OBEY THE GOSPEL

Hear the word of God (2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

Remain Obedient (Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)