

Why Be A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

**BECAUSE SALVATION
IS IN THE CHURCH**

✦ Ephesians 5:23, *“For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, (being) himself the saviour of the body.”*

WHAT IS SALVATION?

- ✦ “In the NT, **salvation** is deliverance from sin and its spiritual consequences, involving an attachment to the body of Christ, and admission to eternal life with blessedness in the kingdom of Christ” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament)
+ Acts 16:30, *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”*
- ✦ Man needs saving. Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23
- ✦ Christ is the saviour. Luke 19:10, *“For the Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost.”*

What is the Church?



**ekklesia: “to call out of” ...
“the called out ones”**

- An Assembly**
- Israel, Acts 7:38
 - Riot, Acts 19:32, 41
 - Governmental body, Acts 19:39

Body of the Saved
“Called out” of darkness by God, by the gospel
2 Thessalonians 2:14
The Redeemed
Matthew 16:18

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Matthew 16:18

“And I also say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My **church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against **it**.”

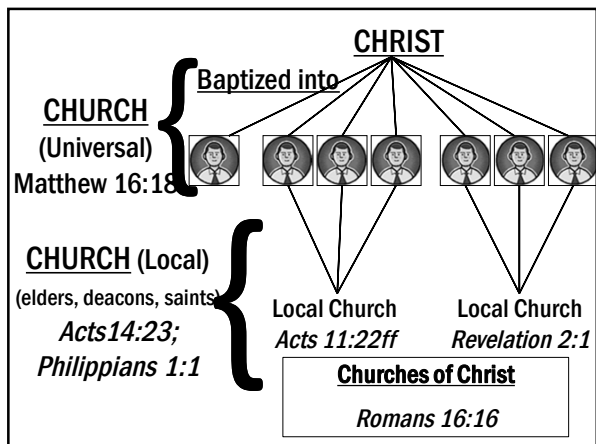
Church = Singular in number

It = Singular in number

**“There is one body”
(Ephesians 4:4)**

**Body = church
(Ephesians 1:22-23;
cf. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13)**

**Thus:
ONE CHURCH**



CAN A MAN BE SAVED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH?

- Many say that a man does not have to be a member of the church to be saved.
- **If** a man can be saved out of the church, **then** why be in it?
 - a. If there is no salvation in it, then why preach and work to get folks to become a member of it?
 - b. Such labors would not be for the purpose of saving the lost, but rather for the purpose of building up nothing more than a social club.

CAN A MAN BE SAVED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH?

- Membership in the church of Christ is essential to salvation.

Ephesians 5:23, “For **the** husband is **the** head of **the** wife, as Christ also is **the** head of **the** church, (being) himself **the** saviour of **the** body.”

CAN A MAN BE SAVED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH?

- The importance of the church is seen by a consideration of what the Bible teaches is in the church.
- The church is the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), whatever is said to be “in Christ” cannot be had outside of the **body of Christ**.

SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH

It is purchased by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 5:25; Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Romans 5:8-9 By his blood we are:

- Justified. Romans 5:9
- Saved from wrath. Romans 5:9
- Reconciled to God. Romans 5:10

Those NOT in the church have NOT been bought by the blood of Christ!

SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH

Reconciliation is in the church. Ephesians 2:16

- Man needs reconciliation. cf. Isaiah 59:1-2
- Man must be reconciled to be saved. cf. Romans 5:10
- Reconciliation commanded. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

As the body is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23) and reconciliation is in the body, then reconciliation is possible **ONLY** in the church.

Those NOT in the church are NOT reconciled!

SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH

The inheritance is in the church. Galatians 3:26-29

A person is either a child of God or a child of the devil (John 8:42-44)

- One must be a child in the family of God (the house of God) *"the church of the living God"* to be an *"heir."* 1 Timothy 3:15
- One must be a child in the family of God to be a *"joint-heir with Christ."* Romans 8:16-17

Those NOT in the church, are NOT children of God, NOT an *"heir."* (cf. 1 Peter 1:4)

SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH

Sanctification is in the church. Ephesians 5:25-26

Definition: "To purify by expiation, free from the guilt of sin" 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 5:26 (Thayer)

Church in Corinth *"sanctified."* 1 Corinthians 1:2

Inheritance among the *"sanctified."* Acts 20:32

Those NOT in the church are NOT among the sanctified.

SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH

The church will be presented a *"glorious"* church.

Ephesians 5:26-27

- "Metaphorically, a glorious Church, signifying the Church adorned in pure and splendid raiment as a bride (Ephesians 5:27)" (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)
- "Figuratively equivalent to free from sin, (Ephesians 5:27)" (Thayer)

Those NOT in the church, are NOT so honored.

SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH

Justification is in the church.

- Need for justification. Romans 3:20, 24
- The called are the justified. Romans 8:30
- The called are in the body. Colossians 3:15
- The body is the church. Ephesians 1:22-23

Those NOT in the church, are NOT justified.

SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH

Deliverance is in the church. Colossians 1:13;

cf. Matthew 16:18

- There are only two spiritual kingdoms – the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of Christ.
- Can a person be saved while a part of the kingdom of Satan?
 - If not, he must become a citizen of the kingdom of Christ in order to be saved. But the kingdom is the church.
 - A person must be a citizen of the kingdom to be saved. Our citizenship is in heaven. (Philippians 3:20)

Therefore, those NOT in the kingdom of Christ are NOT delivered. (cf. Acts 26:16-18)

SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH

All spiritual blessings are *"in Christ"* Ephesians 1:3

Since the church is described as *"the fullness of Christ"* (Ephesians 1:22-23), whatever is said to be *"in Christ"* cannot be had outside the body of Christ, the church of Christ.

Therefore, those NOT *"in Christ"* do NOT enjoy *"all spiritual blessings."*

SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH

✘ To be *“in Christ,”* is to be *“in the church of Christ, ... which is his body.”*

All spiritual blessings, Ephesians 1:3

- ✘ Redemption, Ephesians 1:7
- ✘ Forgiveness, Ephesians 1:7
- ✘ Inheritance, Ephesians 1:11
- ✘ New creature, 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ✘ Salvation, 2 Timothy 2:10
- ✘ No condemnation, Romans 8:1
- ✘ Eternal life, 1 John 5:11-12

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SALVATION IS IN THE CHURCH

Saved added to the church Acts 2:47 KJV

- The requirements of salvation and the requirements of church membership are the same.
 - + The LOST are not members of the Lord’s church.
 - + The SAVED are members of the Lord’s church.

Those NOT in the church, NOT added to the saved.

WHO WERE ADDED?

WHO WERE SAVED?

■ Saved Added To Christ’s Church

- Acts 2:47, *“praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved.”*

Acts 2:41

“They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added (unto them) in that day about three thousand souls.”

IF SALVATION IS NOT IN THE CHURCH THEN ...

- ✘ Saved without the blood of Christ.
- ✘ Saved without reconciliation.
- ✘ Saved without being a child of God.
- ✘ Saved without sanctification.
- ✘ Saved without glory.
- ✘ Saved without deliverance.
- ✘ Saved without being *“in Christ.”*
- ✘ Saved without baptism.