

“OF WHAT CHURCH SHOULD I BECOME A MEMBER?”

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. As all of us know there are many, even hundreds of, churches in existence, all of different names, faiths, creeds and orders, yet all claiming to be of Christ and or of God.
2. This poses a problem for some people who do not know much about the Bible and yet are honestly searching for a “church home.”
3. Example: My friend Woodrow Adkins and his experience with Bud Akers in Kennett, Mo. (First, Akers’ problem as expressed to Adkins. Second, Adkins’ response.
4. Suppose you are one such as Bud Akers and concerned about the question “of what church should I become a member?”
5. May I suggest the following two points for discussion. First, a multifaceted question; then, the Bible answer to the question.

II. DISCUSSION

A. DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO GOD IF I CHOOSE:

1. The church of my parents? (This might be: etc., etc., etc.)
2. The one most convenient to where I live?
3. The one with the largest membership in town?
4. The one with the most influential membership in town?
5. The one with the most popular and fluent preacher?

B. THE SCRIPTURAL ANSWER: GOD WILL BE PLEASED, AND YOU WILL BE SAFE ONLY IF YOU CHOOSE:

1. The one that Jesus built that belongs to him and of which he also is the very foundation, laid by the Apostles, Mt.16:13-18; 1Cor.3:11; Eph.2:19-22.
2. The one for which he died, the one purchased with his blood, Eph.5:25; Ac.20:28; 1Pet.1:18,19; 1Cor.6:19,20.
3. The one that wears the name of the only begotten Son of God, Rom.16:16; Ac.20:28; 1Cor.1:2; 2Cor.1:1.

4. The one for which he gave himself that he might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water by the word, and to be presented to himself, Eph.5:25-27.
5. The one and only one of which Jesus is the head and Savior, Eph.1:22,23; 5:23; Col.1:18,24; Cf. Eph.4:4-6.
5. The one in which the Lord places all the saved at the very time they are saved, Ac.2:47.

III. CONCLUSION

1. You have the question. You really want to know the answer.
2. The N.T. rightly divided, has the answer.
3. The N.T. answer believed and obeyed puts you in Christ where salvation is and in the church of Christ, the body of the saved.