

## JUST CHRISTIANS

You can be just a Christian. Does this sound impossibly simple? With more than 300 religious bodies in our country it might appear impossible to be a Christian without being part of a denomination. It is not only possible, but there are actually millions of “Christians only” in this and other nations.

## THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

The Bible says, **“All the churches of Christ greet you.”** Romans 16:16.

However, it is just as correct to describe the church of which we read in the Bible as **“the church of God,”** 1 Corinthians 12:27 OR **“the household of faith.”** Galatians 6:10

These and similar Biblical phrases are descriptive expressions showing how the church is related to Christ and His Father.

Who are these people who seek to be Christians only? Individually Christ’s followers are known as “Christians” in the Bible. For instance, “The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.” Acts 11:26  
Another example: **“If a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name.”** 1 Peter 4:16. Never does a man’s name prefix this God-

given name *Christian*. Paul was one of the most prominent of all Christians, but he did not want disciples to be called “Paulite Christians.” 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

## A DISTINCTIVE OBJECTIVE

Churches of Christ have a distinctive objective. In many ways we agree with others striving to follow Christ. We believe in the Divine inspiration of the entire Bible and that it is sufficient to guide us in all matters of faith. We believe in the death of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for our sins. We believe that after death all men will be rewarded or punished in the next life for the way we have lived here. And we insist that the moral principles of Jesus are absolute truths to be exemplified in the personal life of every child of God.

## THE BIBLE ONLY

We not only believe that the Scriptures are inspired, but also are convinced that the New Testament must be our ONLY guide in religious faith. God’s Word frequently warns us against changing the Divine message. See Galatians 1:5-9. We, therefore, have no creed to present, but accept the Bible as our only guidebook.

## RESTORATION, NOT REFORMATION

It is obvious that the religious world is badly divided. Great leaders such as Martin Luther and John Calvin sought to correct erroneous teachings and practices. But the reformers started at different points and arrived at different conclusions. Division rather than unity has resulted from their sincere efforts.

Churches of Christ, on the other hand, appeal for the restoration of original Christianity rather than a reformation of existing religious bodies. If we agree that the early church was set up to be ideal, we can set up the church the same way today. While many things have changed in the twenty-first century, the teachings of Jesus and His apostles (founders) have not. Truth is absolute and unchangeable. God’s Word is truth John 17:17 and its message can save today as surely as in the first century.

Should you visit one of the churches of Christ you will find it worshiping God like the early disciples - “in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24. You will observe that it partakes of the Lord’s supper, or communion, every Sunday. This is because we are following the example the early Christians who assembled every first

day of the week to **“break bread.”**  
See case in Acts 20:7. Likewise, in every other way churches of Christ seek to reproduce New Testament Christianity - in organization, in work and in all areas of teaching.

## **HOW TO BE JUST A CHRISTIAN**

The church-community is deeply divided in answering the question, **“What must I do to be saved?”** Here again churches of Christ reply by going to the Scriptures for their answer. The Bible teaches that Christ died for our sins, *Matt. 26:28* and that without His death we cannot be saved. *Hebrews 9:22.*

But what does Jesus require of us if we are to benefit by His death? In Bible times, people were urged to believe that Jesus is **“both Lord and Christ”** or ruler and Messiah. *Acts 2:36* When they asked for further information, they were told, **“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”**  
*Acts 2:38*

Today we teach, as did the apostles (founders), that we benefit by Christ’s death only as we believe in Him, repent of all our sins and are baptized (immersed). This then results in forgiveness and the Lord

adds us to His body, the church.

**“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”** *Acts 2:47.* The saved, then are the body or church of Christ.

In Bible times, disciples were Christians only. Although we live 2000 years later, we too, can be Christians only if we will follow the same teachings given to these first followers of Jesus.

Just as surely as a planted acorn will produce only an oak tree, so God’s Word will produce Christians and nothing more.

Would you consider becoming just a Christian? For further information please contact your local church of Christ.

## **JUST CHRISTIANS**

**“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me . . .”**

