

Think you are the only ones?

Common Question – 2 motives:

1 – Asked out of derision

2 – Sense a superior attitude in us

Common Question

- | **Some ask out of derision** – a question that accuses, ridicules, intended to make a mockery
- | **Some are sincere** – they may sense a superior attitude, a haughty spirit, know it all, better than you, holier-than-thou

Some Basic Truths

God wants ALL to be saved

1 Timothy 2:3-4 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Some Basic Truths

Jesus died for ALL men

John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Some Basic Truths

- | **Grace is for ALL men**
- | **Titus 2:11-12** 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age

Some Basic Truths

- | **Heaven has room for ALL men**
- | **Revelation 21:14-15** 14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

Some Basic Truths

God knows who are His

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Some Basic Truths

Jesus, not man, will judge on the last day

John 5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom

Some Basic Truths

Scripture is open for all to understand

John 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Ephesians 3:3-4 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)

Some Basic Truths

God has drawn the circle

Some want to make the circle too big

Some want to make the circle too small

What does the Word say?

The body (church) of Christ will be saved

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Ephesians 1:22-23 22 And He put all things under His 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.

What does the Word say?

The church will be saved

Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

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.

What does the Word say?

The church of God will be saved

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

What does the Word say?

The church of God will be saved

1 Timothy 3:15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

What does the Word say?

Many phrases refer to the same group

The church, church of God, church of the living God

Churches of Christ, church of the firstborn, body of Christ, family of God

All these terms are not different groups, but all refer to the same group of obedient believers

What does the Word say?

Church is used 117 times in the NT

Used in 3 ways

1 – Universal – the church for which Jesus died

2 – Local – a congregation in a local area, Corinth, Ephesus, Phillipi, etc.

3 – Assembled – when the believers assemble to worship, sing, pray and partake of communion

Back to the question

IF Church of Christ = denomination – NO

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IF the term applies to those in the body of Christ – YES

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IF Church of Christ = denomination – NO

IF the term applies to those in the body of Christ – YES

Stay out of denominations

Stay in the body of Christ and you will be saved.