

# THE CHURCH I BELONG TO



*by Dan Spence*

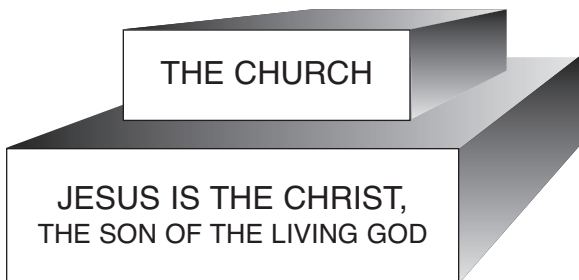
# Preface

Often people ask the question, “Where do you go to church?” To answer that question properly, let’s go back about 2000 years and talk to an old expert. His name is the apostle Paul. The Holy Spirit led him to draw many of the blueprints for the New Testament Church. Perhaps he could give us some insight.

Let’s move in a little closer and ask, “Paul, where do you go to church?” Picture him methodically stroking his beard and then with a loving smile and a glint in his eyes, he takes up his pen and exclaims:

**THE CHURCH  
I BELONG  
TO ...**

## ... IS BUILT ON THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

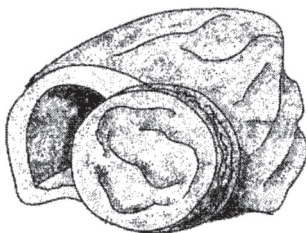


“Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it’” (Matthew 16:16 -18).

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11).

**The Godhead, sometimes called the Trinity, consists of three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Sonship directly expresses equality with God. The Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation rock on which the Church is being built. He was born of a virgin and is God in sinless, human form (incarnate).**

# **... ACCEPTS THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AS THE ONLY MEANS OF SALVATION**



“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3,4).

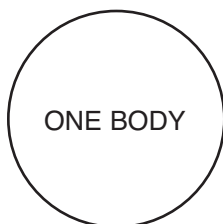
“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

**The cross and the empty tomb set Christianity apart from all other religions. Salvation is by simple faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. It is essential to confess Jesus as Lord, and believe that He died for your sins and rose from the dead if you are to be saved and belong to the true Church.**

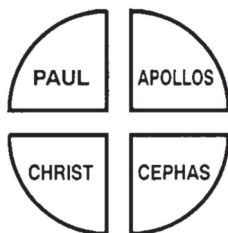
## ... RECOGNIZES ALL BELIEVERS AS MEMBERS OF ONE BODY

“The Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:22,23).

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*Not This*



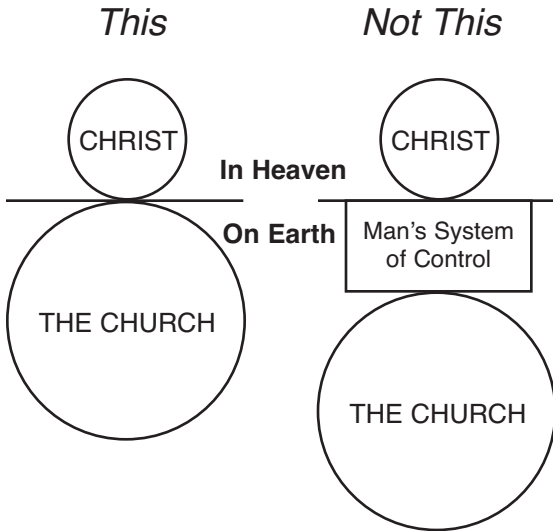
“There is one body”  
(Ephesians 4:4).

“Endeavoring to keep the  
unity of the Spirit in the  
bond of peace” (Ephesians  
4:3).

“Each of you says, ‘I am  
of Paul,’ or ‘I am of  
Apollos,’ or ‘I am of  
Cephas,’ or ‘I am of  
Christ.’ Is Christ divided?”  
(1 Corinthians 1:12,13).

**A BODY CONTAINS: function, fellowship, unity and testimony. A party spirit in a local church or independent churches within the body of Christ deny this truth.**

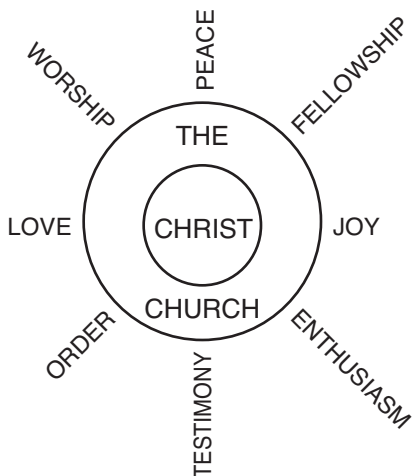
## ... ACKNOWLEDGES CHRIST AS HEAD



“And He is the head of the body, the Church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He might have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:18).

**HEADSHIP IMPLIES: connection, direction, communication and coordination. In the Bible no man on earth is ever spoken of as head of the Church. No man-made control system existed to direct the activities of the Church.**

## ... MEETS SIMPLY IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST



“The same day at evening, being the first day of the week ... Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you’” (John 20:19).

“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20).

“They realized that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).

**The central gathering point, attraction and focus of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ.**

## ... SEEKS TO OBEY GOD'S WORD

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).



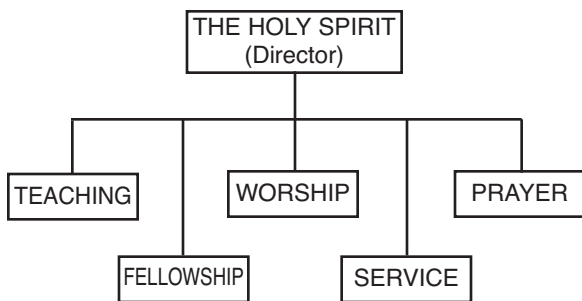
“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word” (John 14:23).

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

**The Bible is the complete record of God's inspired thoughts communicated to man. It is the absolute standard of all truth. It should be searched, understood, taught, properly applied and implicitly obeyed.**



## ... IS DIRECTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT



“When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and ... He will glorify Me” (John 16:13,14).

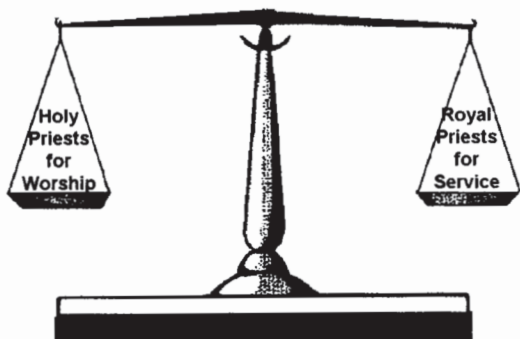
“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:4).

“They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

“So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit ...” (Acts 13:4).

**The Holy Spirit was given authority and power to lead in the Church. Like a nervous system to the body, the Holy Spirit is the living link between all believers and their God.**

## ... PRACTICES THE PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER



### For Worship

“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).

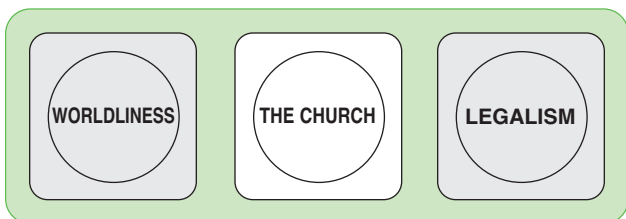
### For Service

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

**The Church, if led by the Spirit, will provide opportunity for every believer to participate in both aspects of the priesthood – worship and service.**

## ... BELIEVES IN THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION

“God divided the light from the darkness” (Genesis 1:4).



(Jesus said:) “They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world” (John 17:16).

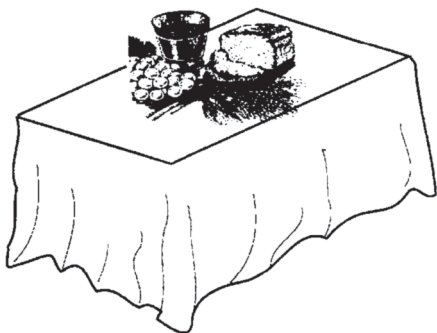
“Let us go forth to Him (Christ), outside the camp (Judaism), bearing His reproach” (Hebrews 13:13).

“Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (2 Timothy 2:19).

**If the Church does not walk in obedience to God’s Word, it will drift into worldliness or into legalism. When sin is judged individually, separation is maintained collectively. If the Church neglects to correct serious evil, separation and testimony are lost and the name of our Lord is associated with evil.**

## **... KEEPS THE LORD'S SUPPER REGULARLY**

**Every true believer walking in separation from moral, spiritual and doctrinal evil has a place at the Lord's Table.**



“On the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread ...” (Acts 20:7).

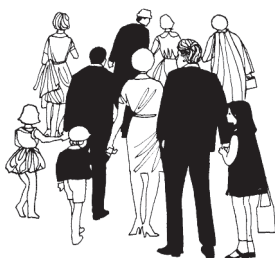
“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26).

**The early Church enthusiastically kept the Lord's supper on a weekly basis. When first love cools, formality sets in and this wonderful privilege loses its priority and may be kept less often.**

## ... IS NOT A BUILDING

The Church is a group of people consisting of born-again Christians.

*This*



*Not This*



“Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for her” (Ephesians 5:25).

If you would like to be assured of eternal life and be part of this Church, you may simply come, without cost, and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.

If you would like to be introduced to a group of believers who endeavor to meet on these Biblical principles once practiced by the New Testament Church, contact someone at the address on back cover.

## **The Church I Belong To:**

- ✓ is built on the right foundation
- ✓ accepts the death and resurrection of Christ as the only means of salvation
- ✓ recognizes all believers as members of one body
- ✓ acknowledges Christ as Head
- ✓ meets simply in the name of the Lord
- ✓ seeks to obey God's Word
- ✓ is directed by the Holy Spirit
- ✓ practices the priesthood of every believer
- ✓ believes in the principle of separation
- ✓ keeps the Lord's Supper regularly
- ✓ is not a building

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