

## **Question: To which church should a person belong?**

In this article, I will link the question above to the practice of "religion." Most people understand that a person's "religion" is his daily service to God, while a "church" is a group of people with whom he shares a common religious interest, whether it is right or wrong, scriptural or unscriptural.

God intended the following passages to be a warning of the dangers of false religion, but they also emphasize the importance of the question above. Read them carefully in their context.

- "Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted." (Matt 15:13).
- "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.  
Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you" (2Cor 6:17)
- "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins..." (Rev 18:4).

God will simply not accept just any form of religion. In fact, according to His word, there is only one right way in religion, and that is His way. The New Testament describes the character of the one who may serve Him (Matt 5-7). In addition, His scriptures explain the method and manner by which He may be worshipped acceptably (Jn 4:24).

Many well-meaning people never consider the scriptural accuracy of their religion and the doctrines of their church. They belong to a particular group for the sake of convenience or out of loyalty to their families. However, Jesus Christ built the church, centuries ago, to which we should belong (Matt 16:18):

- It is the only one He built (Eph 4:4, Col 1:24)
- It was purchased with His blood (Ac 20:28)
- It began with Gospel preaching in Jerusalem (Isa 2:1-3, Lk 24:46-47, Ac 2)
- It has only one Head (Eph 1:22-23)
- It has no earthly headquarters (Heb 8:1)

These points eliminate all religious denominations that had their origin at some other time than the first century and in some other way than by the preaching of the gospel of Christ.

The church to which we should belong is the church that submits to Christ. Many religious groups today do not even claim to follow the scriptures. In fact, they believe it is legalistic and out-of-date to do so. Nevertheless, the Lord's true church submits to his headship (Eph 1:22-23, Matt 28:18). This means that the Lord's church does what the scriptures teach (2Jn 9-11).

The church to which we should belong does exist today. I kindly challenge you to use God's word to examine your religion and the teachings of your church. Next week we will take a closer look at some identifying marks of the church to which we should belong.

Study your Bible and search the truth. Write us today for a free Bible correspondence course by mail. Thanks for reading.