
Why Should Anyone Attend A Church of Christ
Paper No. OCCG-001

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: A short overview on the history of religion leading to the conclusion that you should follow what the Bible teaches. This should lead you to your local Church of Christ.

REPORT:

Unless you grew up in a Church of Christ you likely grew up with a negative view of Churches of Christ, if you thought about them at all. If you were to decide to go to church, it would likely be someplace else at the very least because there are hundreds of other choices.

You should attend a Church of Christ because they follow the Bible. That is a really good statement, but everyone says this.

There are more than 200 distinct denominations in the United States doing various things, so either the New Testament is really vague in what it says, or there are a lot of groups who are not following the New Testament.

Clearly you cannot ask a leader of your church as at least 99% of the are sincere in saying they follow the New Testament, and yet we have 200+ groups.

If there is a correct teaching / group to follow, it is up to you to find it.

First let's deal with a little logic on what church you should attend:

THERE IS A GOD!

Is there a God? The simple fact that we exist required a supernatural event as nature cannot make something from nothing. The most serious atheist must begin with a miracle (an act which defies

natural laws). (1) This would teach that you need to believe there is a God.

JEHOVAH IS THAT GOD!

Given that there is a supernatural force or a god, how do you decide which is the real God from the choices such as Jehovah, Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Jainism, or Taoism. (2)

Jehovah is the only choice which:

1. Has a God which claimed to be God when he was on earth, (John 10:30)
2. Provides fulfilled prophecies,
3. Made scientific statements which proved to be true, (3)
4. Does not incorporate contemporary myths, and
5. Explains the creation of the Universe. (Genesis 1)

This should teach that Jehovah is for real.

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD!

Of the groups claiming to follow God, Judeo/Christianity is the only group which:

1. Has a God which claimed to be God when he was on earth, (John 10:30)
2. Made scientific statements which proved to be true, (3)
3. Does not make false scientific statements, or
4. Does not incorporate contemporary myths. (4)

This should teach that Christianity is the right place to be.

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD!

We know that God has communicated with us through the Old Testament and then the

New Testament. Numerous individuals have claimed to be inspired by God since the first century. They have provided no extra-human intelligence, scientific statements, or fulfilled prophecies to demonstrate that what they are saying is true.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST FOLLOWS THE BIBLE!

The first decision to make at this point is whether you are going to follow the New Testament, or the myriad of teaching which have been developed since the eyewitness to Christ died. There are a host of doctrines which have been developed since the first century. (5) It is your choice to follow these teachings or to follow God's instructions through the New Testament.

Of the "Christian" groups, the Churches of Christ are the only group which follows the New Testament instead of post first century teachings. (6)

IT MATTERS!

If it is optional to do whatever you would like to do, it should be fine to pick whichever of the 200+ denominations or from among the many current unaffiliated churches. The Bible tells you that God's judgment as revealed in the Bible shows He means what He says. (7)

The Bible teaches in Matthew 7:13-14 narrow is the gate and broad is the path to destruction. That should tell you that the choice of 200+ groups is certainly

questionable. It matters.

WHAT/WHO DO YOU BELIEVE?

Our suggestion to you is that you only believe God's word to you, and that God's word to you today only comes from the New Testament. There have been hundreds if not thousands of individuals who have claimed to get the word of God since the first century witnesses wrote the New Testament. These have had many conflicting teachings. Rev. 22:18-19 certainly tells you not to add to or take away.

If you simply read Acts 2:38 "38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be immersed (baptized) in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." you will eliminate most churches. When you add the scriptural organizational structure in I Tim 3 you eliminate most of the remainder from following the scriptural pattern.

Will you simply follow what God's instructions in the New Testament teaches. If you are prepared to do that, you should visit your local Church of Christ.

CONCLUSION:

The Churches of Christ follow the motto "Speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent". We believe this is the best path to being pleasing to Jesus and would recommend that you follow the same pattern.

Footnotes:

- (1) www.occg.institute, Topical Lessons, 1.1, 1.6
- (3) www.occg.institute, Topical Lesson, 5.3
- (5) www.occg.institute, Topical Lesson, 3.3
- (7) www.occg.institute, Topical Lesson, 6.6

- (2) www.occg.institute, Topical Lesson, 2.4
- (4) www.occg.institute, Topical Lesson, 2.4
- (6) www.occg.institute, Topical Lesson, 3.50