

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

DEFINED BY THE POSITIVE



SUMMARY: We should try to define ourselves by the positive of our beliefs rather than letting others define us by the negative.

In the past Churches of Christ have been largely defined by negatives. More to the point we have passively let others identify us by negatives. Consider the following positives:

Churches of Christ are churches which **sing acapella** in the church as is specified in the New Testament and was followed several hundred years after the start of the church. Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16

Churches of Christ are churches which **teach baptism for immersion for the remission of sins**. We are so unique in following this scriptural teaching that when anyone holds up a sign at a sporting event which says "Acts 2:38", many people presume it is a Church of Christ member. Acts 2:38

Churches of Christ are churches which are **locally autonomous** under the leadership of multiple shepherds (when available). I Timothy 3:1-14, Titus 1:5-11

Churches of Christ are churches which believe **love and works are both necessary** for salvation. John 14:15, I Corinthians 13:3

Churches of Christ are churches which believe **all of God's word to us today comes in the Bible**, with the New Testament being current. II Timothy 3:16-17

Churches of Christ are churches which **use a scriptural name**. (Romans 16:16)

Churches of Christ are churches which believe **we must follow Jesus' commands** to be in his grace and feel a personal obligation to let others know this basic truth.

Churches of Christ are churches which believe **the Great Commission is addressed to us** today.

Churches of Christ are churches which **follow scriptural teachings on the role of women** in the services. 1 Timothy 2:11-15

Churches of Christ are churches which believe **God creates human life begins at conception**.

Churches of Christ are churches which follows **Jesus' teaching that marriage after divorce is solely for the reason of adultery**. Matthew 19:9, Matthew 5:32

Churches of Christ are churches which **follow the New Testament prohibitions** on participating in fornication, adultery, homosexual conduct, drunkenness, murder, stealing, and a number of other things. Churches of Christ are churches which teach against these activities but love the person who is involved in them. Romans 1:26-32

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Churches of Christ are churches which “speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent”. Even in the more modern incarnations “just the Bible” and NT:OA (New Testament only and exclusively), they are positive statements. Revelation 22:18-19

WHAT THIS MEANS IS:

Churches of Christ are unique among identifiable religious groups in following what the Bible actually teaches.