

How to Find the One Church

Eph. 4:4; 1:23

Introduction:

- A. Most agree that Bible teaches “one church.”
 - 1. Like Albert Barnes: Right interpretation, wrong application.
 - 2. Find it almost every where — “all members of same church.”
- B. Many look for one church by window shopping approach: compare all to find best.
 - 1. Too time consuming — Thousands to check out.
 - 2. Begins at wrong point — comparison shopping.
- C. Let us try a different approach with different steps:

Discussion:

I. Firstly, One must Find the Word of God.

- A. It is self-evidently from God.
 - 1. It claims to be. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21).
 - 2. Internal and external evidence.
 - 3. Prophecy, unity, etc.
- B. It is the standard of judgment. (John 12:48).

II. Secondly, One must Find Himself by the Word of God.

- A. Comes to see himself as a lost sinner (Rom. 3:23; John 16:8; Jas 1:23,24)
- B. Come to realize that only in Christ he can be saved. (Acts 4:12)

III. Thirdly, One must Find the Salvation in Christ.

- A. Word has produced faith in Christ (Rom. 10:9-17).
- B. Obeys the Lord’s terms of salvation (Rom. 10:10; Mk. 16:15,16; Acts 2:38).
 - 1. Makes him a disciple — committed to life obedience (Mt 28:18-20; John 8:21)
 - 2. *Has found the one church — the same way the first Christians found it.* (Acts 2:47; cf. Heb 12:18-24) [Cannot find a denomination this way]

IV. Fourthly, One must Continue in All Things Commanded.

- A. He must join himself to other Christians - an organized unit (Acts 9:26, 32)
 - 1. To have only local organization (cf. Acts 14:26; Phil. 1:1; 1 Pet 5:1,2)
 - 2. To assemble together with them (Heb. 10:25).
 - 3. To engage in scriptural worship together with them (Cf. Matt 15:9).
 - a. Sing together (Eph. 5:19).
 - b. Pray together (1 Cor. 14:15-17).
 - c. Teach and learn together (Acts 20:7; cf. 1 Cor. 14:31).
 - d. Eat Lord’s supper together on Sundays (Acts 20:7).
 - e. Contribute into common treasury on Sundays (1 Cor. 16:1,2)
 - 4. To engage in scriptural work with them.
 - a. Evangelize (2 Cor. 11:8).
 - b. Relieve needy saints. (1 Cor. 16:1,2).
 - c. Edifying the church (Eph. 4:16).
- B. *He has found the local church.*
 - 1. Not a denomination.
 - 2. Like all other scriptural local churches (cf. 1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17).

Conclusion:

- A. Obey Christ in all things, will be in the one church.