

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

By Paul R. Blake

(Developed from a sermon by Leroy Brownlow)

Introduction:

A. John 6:57-69

1. You know me well enough by now to be sure of two things:
 - a. I believe the word of God to be true and the only source of authority in religion.
 - b. I teach only what is written in the Bible.
2. There are a few other things I would like you to know as well.
 - a. I teach because I love people and their souls; would say nothing to deliberately offend another.
 - b. In my efforts to preach the word of God as it is written so that souls might go to heaven, some become offended.
3. John 6:60-61, 66-69
 - a. Pain of the truth causes some people to obey the Lord; it causes others to turn from him in anger.
 - b. Some are angered by the words of Jesus, but can they find salvation elsewhere?

B. I am a servant of Jesus Christ preaching for the Tomlinson Run Church of Christ.

1. Why in the Church of Christ? HARD QUESTION, but we can handle it.
2. Matthew 16:16-18 - He would build his Church.
 - a. How many?
3. 1Cor. 14:33 - "God is not the author of confusion."
 - a. Is religious division confusing?
4. 1Cor. 1:10
 - a. Does God like division?
5. Eph. 4:4, 1:22-23; Col. 1:18
 - a. How many churches is Christ the head of?

C. Taught me that there is one that is pleasing to God.

1. Since the Bible taught me that, I let it teach me which one.

D. WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

I. JESUS CHRIST IS ITS FOUNDATION

A. Isaiah 28:16

1. Matt. 16:18 - Christ is that rock.

B. It is not built on anything else.

1. 1Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20.

C. Jesus is not the founder of any earthly organization created and led by men.

II. JESUS CHRIST GAVE US ITS CREED

A. 'Credo' - "I believe."

1. A creed is what a church believes.

2. Matt. 17:5 - "Hear ye him." Excluded Moses, Elijah, and any other man

B. Heb. 1:1-2, 13:8 - perfect creed; doesn't need changed.

1. Only acceptable creed!

2. 2John 9-11; Romans 16:17; Prov. 6:19

C. If a creed has more than the Bible, it has too much; If it has less, it doesn't have enough.

III. JESUS CHRIST IS ITS HEAD

- A. Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18; Matt. 28:18.
- B. Has only one head and we are all subject to it; no man can command us in anything other than what Christ has authorized - Col. 3:17.
- C. Christ died for it – Eph. 5:25,
 - 1. Paid for it with his blood – Acts 20:28
 - 2. He has all authority over it – Col. 1:18,
 - 3. His doctrine must be taught in it – 2John 9,
 - 4. He is the foundation – 1Cor 3:11...
 - 5. Whose name should it wear?!

IV. JESUS CHRIST GAVE IT HIS NAME

- A. Isaiah 65:15, 56:5; Amos 9:11-12.
 - 1. Names are important to God.
 - 2. Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, etc.
 - 3. Prov. 22:1
- B. A Good Name – Acts 11:26, 26:28; 1Peter 4:16; Acts 4:12
 - 1. A bride wears her husband's name.
 - 2. Eph. 5:23 -The church is the bride of Christ.
- C. 1Cor. 1:12-13 – It is sinful to wear any other name than what we have been baptized into. Into whom are we baptized?
 - 1. How does this differ significantly from “I am a Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist...?”
- D. If it is Christ's Church, then whose name should be on it?
 - 1. Some wear his name, but don't use his doctrine.

V. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST PRACTICES GOD'S WORD ON BAPTISM

- A. Matt. 28:18-20 - Christ demanded it.
- B. Mark 16:16 - Christ said it saves.
- C. Acts 2:38 - It is in the name of Christ; removes sin.
- D. Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:11-12 - it is a burial or immersion.
- E. Acts 22:16 - It is what washes away sin.

VI. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST PRACTICES TRUTH ON THE LORD'S SUPPER

- A. Purpose - 1Cor. 11:23-29.
- B. Day - Acts 20:7
- C. Frequency - 1Cor. 16:1-2

VII. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS UNITED BY TRUTH

- A. John 17:20-21 - God's basis for unity
- B. Eph. 4:1-6; 1Cor. 1:10
 - 1. How are we united? By speaking the same thing.
- C. John 12:48-49; James 1:25; 1John 5:13, 19-20; Matt. 11:25; Gal. 1:6-10
 - 1. United by truth, not in diversity.

VIII. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS NOT A DENOMINATION OF MEN

- A. Matthew 15:13, 7:21-23; John 6:67-69
 - 1. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and I want to belong to His Church! Don't you?