

# Why We Believe In One Church

Some people consider us narrow-minded or bigoted because we believe there is only one, true church. They tell us that Jesus approves all the various denominations and our opposition to them is either ignorance or jealousy. Our only defense is an appeal to the scriptures.

Jesus said, "...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). He did not say, "I will build My churches." He determined to establish one church that belongs to Him.

Paul wrote that the church is the body of Christ--the redeemed (Eph. 1:22-23). He went on to say, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:4-6). Just as surely there is one Revealer of truth, one Savior of the world and one Creator Who is over all, there is only one church. If there are many churches, are there also many Spirits? Are there many Lords? Paul also wrote, "and that He [Christ] might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity" (Eph. 2:16). This passage tells us man is reconciled to God in one body, one church, through the cross. If we can have the church of our choice, can we also have the cross of our choice? There were two others crucified with Jesus.

When the New Testament is examined, there are no denominations to be found. When men did begin to denominate (divide) themselves, they were severely condemned (1 Cor. 3:1-4). Therefore, how can anyone who respects God and His Word praise the multitude of churches?

Our belief in one church is not from ignorance or jealousy. Rather, it is based upon New Testament teaching. It is by faith (Rom. 10:17). Study the Bible to see if these things are so and contact us if you wish to have further discussion (Acts 17:11).

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