



## The Marks of a True Church (part 2) Acts 2:36-47

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- Definition: The CHURCH is the COMMUNITY of all TRUE believers for all TIME.

If you can think about the life you once had before going to church, we consider this “The Past –Life Apart from Christ”. Not to say that Christ is equaling Church but there are vital components related to not following Christ and reasons for not going to Church. Then, we consider the “The Joined-Life with Christ” where those who put their faith in Christ and made him Lord have become part of his family called the Church. This is where you, as an individual, make a commitment to Christ and, eventually, make a commitment to Christ’s Church. That commitment can look like many things, but we must consider this commitment is a reflection of your “Active-Life as the Body of Christ”. Jesus is building up His church for his kingdom. His Word demands us to stay devoted to each other.

“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe<sup>[d]</sup> came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The following marks, are of a continuation of what a true church looks like that is given in Scripture that I believe can be helpful for us today:

#### 4. The Church Is ORGANIZED Under QUALIFIED Leadership (v 42)

## 5. The Church Is Spiritually UNIFIED. (v 44-46)

- Obedient GIVING demonstrates the believers voluntary UNITY.

## 6. The Church Rightly ADMINISTERS the SACRAMENTS. (v 38, 41, 42, 46)

The Roman Catholic view is that saving grace came through the sacraments and thereby was made “works” by which we earned merit for salvation. Yet, it was Christ who established the works for salvation by His grace through a gift of faith not from what anyone of us can do.

- BAPTISM and the LORD’S SUPPER marks a church as biblically genuine.

*“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self<sup>[a]</sup> was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free<sup>[b]</sup> from sin.”*

### **Romans 6:4-7**

- BAPTISM is the means for ADMITTING people into the church.

*“and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup>In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

### **1 Corinthians 11:24-25**

- LORD’S SUPPER is the means for ALLOWING people to give a sign of continuing in the membership of the church.

## 7. The Church Is COMMITTED to Jesus’ MISSION. (v 47)

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>[a]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” **Matthew 28-19-20***

- The evangelistic work of declaring the GOSPEL is the PRIMARY MINISTRY that the church has toward the world.

*“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” **Luke 6:35-36***

- All Marks are PURPOSEFUL and COMMANDED by the Lord in Scripture; therefore all should be a part of the Christian LIFESTYLE.

If we neglect following Christ's teachings, then eventually the church will wither and obtain a spiritual dryness because of life in the Church. Without God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we don't know of the joy of understanding truth and salvation, worshipping God, fellowship within the church or telling others about Christ outside the church.