

WHICH CHURCH IS RIGHT?

There are hundreds of different denominations in the world today. It certainly is confusing and contradictory. Is God pleased with so many? The Bible answer is No. Should we pray for and support them all? Again the Bible answer is No. Can we know which one, if any, God approves? Yes! Read Matthew 16:18, Jesus would establish “one church.” Ephesians 4:4-5 says there is “one body”, “one faith.”

The place to start in finding out which church is approved of God is to leave our *feelings* out of the picture. All they can do is cloud the issue with human bias. The next place to turn is the *Bible*, specifically the New Testament. Creeds, manuals, councils and synods have absolutely nothing to do with an honest search for the God-approved church. Such works of men are not the authority. The Bible is the authority. Long established *traditions* have no bearing in one’s investigation. Every man/woman can learn the Truth for themselves. The Bible can be understood (Eph. 3:4). Next, have an *open mind*. Approach the Scriptures desiring to learn what God wants and be willing to accept it no matter where

it leads, even when its different than you have always believed. Remember, God is the one we seek to please, not ourselves. It doesn’t matter what we want. What God wants is the only right way.

Several questions must be asked: 1) What were the **characteristics** of the church? 2) What **name** did it wear? 3) What **doctrine** did it teach? 4) What did the church **practice**? 5) What was **done in worship**? 6) How was worship **conducted**? 7) What was the **organization** of the church? 8) How did its **members live** from day to day? These are all vital questions. None of the answers are left to man’s discretion. When the honest answer from the Scriptures is found, then turn to the world and begin your search for the one that matches the **identity of the church** you read about in the New Testament. Reject all churches that do not match its identity.

Which church today fits this description? Be honest with study to be approved of God (II Tim. 2:15). Investigate the “*churches of Christ*” (Rom. 16:16). Jesus is its head, the Bible is its guide and heaven is its home.

—Garland M. Robinson