

# **“There Really Is Only One Church That Is Christ's”**

## **Eph. 1:18-23**

### Introduction

- I. As hard as it may be for some to accept, Jesus did not build, nor authorize the establishment of, any other church than His.
- II. We must not be ashamed or afraid to speak the truth about the fact that there is only one church that is Christ's.
- III. Let us examine the Scriptures to verify this important fact.

### Discussion

- I. Let us start by defining some important terms.
  - A. “Church”-translated from the Greek word *ekklesia*.
    1. “ek”-out or out of
    2. “klesia”-to be called
    3. The church is literally “the ones called out”.
    4. How does the church get “called out” (2 Thess. 2:14).
      - a. When one obeys the instructions of the Gospel, then he is “called out”.
      - b. When one does such, he is added to the church of Christ (Acts 2:47).
  - B. “One”-singular, no others (Gen. 2:21; 11:1).
- II. Simple truths about Christ's church.
  - A. Jesus built and owns it (Matt. 16:18-19; Acts 20:28).
  - B. It is indeed singular in nature (Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).
  - C. Christ is the Head of His church (Eph. 5:23).
  - D. The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:21-25; Rev. 21:1-2).
- III. Types and antitypes.
  - A. The Old Testament is filled with “shadows” of things that were to come (Heb. 10:1).
  - B. One nation [Israel] and one nation [church] (Exo. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:9; Gal. 6:16).
  - C. One house of God [tabernacle] and one house of God [church] (Exo. 25:8-9; 1 Tim. 3:15).
  - D. One priesthood [Levites] and one priesthood [church] (Num. 3:6; 1 Pet. 2:5).
- IV. Arguments against the one church that is Christ's.
  - A. The Bible refers to “churches”.
    1. When used, “churches” refers to individual, autonomous congregations of the one body, not denominations different from one another (Acts 9:31; 1 Cor. 4:17).
    2. The Vine and the Branches does not refer to different denominations, but rather a branch is a “man” (John 15:1-8).
    3. The Good Shepherd has only one “flock” (John 10:14-16).
  - B. The Bible refers to “many members”.
    1. This is not discussing “denominations”, which did not exist in the first century, but rather individuals (1 Cor. 12:12).
    2. There is still only one body with “many members” (1 Cor. 12:14).

### Conclusion

- I. There really is only one church that is Christ's!
- II. Are you a member of it?