

Why I Left the Christian Church

Floyd A. Decker (Written in 1944)

1) The Christian Church has women counselors, directors, and lecturers; the church of Christ does not (1 Timothy 2:11-12; 1 Corinthians 14:34).

2) The Christian Church has educational directors, associate ministers, and youth directors; the church of Christ has elders, deacons, evangelists, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11; Philippians 1:1).

3) The Christian Church has missionary, benevolent, and educational organizations to execute the work of the church; the church of Christ does not (Ephesians 4:4; 3:10, 21).

4) The Christian Church celebrates days of heathen worship, such as Easter, Mother's Day and Christmas; the church of Christ does not (Galatians 4:10).

5) The Christian Church fellowships various denominations in their various activities, leaving the impression that all are brethren; the church of Christ does not (2 John 9-11; Galatians 1:6-10).

6) The Christian Church seeks to get crowds with youth meetings, campaigns for Christ, rallies, drives, and promotions; the church of Christ does not (Romans 1:16; Revelation 22:18-19).

7) The Christian Church emphasizes society and the physical by appealing to the carnal nature, with church carnivals, bands, plays, cho-

uses, dramatics, church kitchens, church camps, and elaborate fellowship halls; the church of Christ does not (1 Corinthians 10:7; Romans 14:17).

8) The Christian Church elevates its preachers above the rest of the members by using such titles as pastor, superintendent, president, and doctor; the church of Christ does not (Matthew 23:5-12; Job 32:21, 23).

9) The Christian Church uses the name "Christian," which is a noun, by speaking of "Christian nations," "Christian schools," and the "Christian Church;" the church of Christ does not (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16).

10) The Christian Church takes up collections at services other than the first day of the week, and uses unscriptural means such as suppers, property rentals and special collections to raise money for the church. The church of Christ follows 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 by having each member lay by in store on the first day of the week. This is the only way of raising money.

11) The Christian Church owns and operates publishing houses, radio stations, hospitals, and other benevolent societies; churches of Christ build nothing but churches.

12) The Christian Church owns, supports, and operates schools for secular education; the church of Christ does not (1 Timothy 3:15).

The Condition of Those Outside the Church of Christ

John Isaac Edwards

A question unsettled in the minds of some is: “Must one be a member of the church of Christ to be saved?” What is the condition of those outside the Lord’s church?

They Are Without Christ. As a builder and building (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:9), husband and wife (Romans 7:1-4; 2 Corinthians 11:2), head and body (Ephesians 1:21-23; Colossians 1:18), house and foundation (Hebrews 3:6; 1 Corinthians 3:11), Christ and the church go together (Ephesians 5:32). One can’t be in Christ and not be in the church of Christ, for baptism puts one in Christ and in the church (Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Thus, whatever is in Christ is not found outside the church of Christ. Some things found in Christ include: Redemption (Romans 3:24), sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:2), liberty (Galatians 2:4), all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3), an inheritance (Ephesians 1:11), reconciliation (Ephesians 2:13), the hope and promise of eternal life (2 Timothy 1:1; Titus 1:2), and salvation (2 Timothy 2:10).

They Are Without the Blood of Christ. The blood flows through the body (Ephesians

2:13, 16), and the life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11). Baptism, which puts one in Christ and the church, also brings one into contact with the blood of Christ (John 19:33-34; Romans 6:3-4). Thus, it is in the church that we avail ourselves of the benefits of the blood. Some things made possible by the blood of Christ include: Justification (Romans 5:9), redemption (Ephesians 1:7), reconciliation (Ephesians 2:13), the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14), peace (Colossians 1:20), and sanctification (Hebrews 13:12).

They Are Without the Spirit. The church is the temple of God (Ephesians 2:21), and the Spirit dwells in the temple (1 Corinthians 3:16). “It is the spirit that quickeneth...” (John 6:63). Thus, those outside the church are spiritually dead! “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16). Therefore, those outside the church are not the children of God.

We plead with you to gladly receive the word and be baptized, that the Lord may add you to His church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47). Do it today! (2 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 3:13).

The Terre Haute Speaker is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

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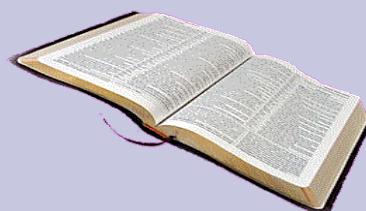
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Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
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Is Our
Only Guide!***