

SOME THINGS RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (Ephesians 1:22-23)

I. It bears the right name.

- A. The name "church of Christ" indicates the Owner of it.
 - 1. Jesus purchased it (Acts 20:28).
 - 2. Jesus is the Head of it (Ephesians 1:22-23).
- B. The Bible reveals several names for the Lord's church.
 - 1. The name "church of God" is found 8 times in the New Testament (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:13).
 - 2. "Church of the firstborn" (Hebrews 12:23).
 - 3. "Bride of Christ" (Revelation 21:2).
 - 4. "House of God" (1 Timothy 3:15).
 - 5. "Body of Christ" (Colossians 1:24).
 - 6. "Churches of Christ" (Romans 1:16).
- C. Any of these names would be scriptural to use because they all refer to the one true church of the New Testament, of which Jesus is the Head.
- D. God and His Son are glorified by each of the names mentioned.
- E. The problem is that any man-made name is divisive.
 - 1. Paul addressed this with the congregation in Corinth.
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 1:10-12.
- F. If we take the name of some man, some ordinance like "baptism," or some form of church government, we are taking away glory from God and His Son who died to purchase the church.
- G. No doubt that just having a scriptural name does not make a church the one about which we read in the New Testament.
 - 1. There are denominations that have scriptural names.
 - 2. Other things, however, are missing.
 - 3. It may be the right organization, the right worship or some other right practice that is missing.
 - 4. The right name is the first step in the right direction.
- H. Names are very important and we understand that.
 - 1. Just let a new bride tell her new groom that she is going to wear another man's name.
 - 2. Just tell someone who works for Pepsi that you want a coke and they are all the same.
 - 3. There is only one name by which we can be saved (Acts 4:12).
 - 4. No name is as good as the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:20-21).
- I. If we are going to be in the family of God, should we not wear the family name (1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 3:14-15).

II. It indicates the right number.

- A. Notice the name again: "church of Christ."
 - 1. It is singular isn't it?

2. There is only one.
- B. This is true about the church about which we read in the New Testament (Matthew 16:18).
 1. Jesus said He was only going to build one church.
 2. He never intended for there to be a multiplicity of groups that teach different things and worship in different ways.
- C. The prophets said that there was only going to be one kingdom.
 1. We need to realize that church and kingdom are one in the same in the New Testament (Matthew 16:18-19).
 2. 2 Samuel 7:12-13.
 3. Isaiah 2:2-3.
 4. Daniel 2:44; Daniel 7:13-14.
- D. In the New Testament, there is just one church.
 1. It is the church purchased by Jesus (Acts 20:28).
 2. It is the "one body" (Ephesians 4:4; Ephesians 1:22-23).
 3. There is one kingdom (Colossians 1:13).
- E. It is true that there are a multiplicity of groups, or individual congregations, that make up the entire church.
 1. This was true in the first century.
 2. Romans 1:16.
 3. All of them practiced the same things, taught the same things and were organized in the same way.
- F. Today, you can worship with saints all over the globe.
 1. They are part of individual, autonomous congregations.
 2. All that teach, preach, practice and are organized the same way, are all part of the church that belongs to Christ.
- G. The sad fact that there are over 1,500 religious bodies in the US and over 41,000 worldwide does not make it right.
 1. This all goes against the prayer for unity that Jesus prayed the night before His crucifixion (John 17:20-21).
 2. This goes against what Paul taught the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).

III. It serves the right need.

- A. Man's greatest need is the salvation of his soul.
- B. Sin condemns a person to death (James 1:14-15).
- C. The blood of Jesus washes away sin (Revelation 1:7).
- D. The church serves the needs of man by getting out the saving message of the blood of Christ.
 1. Matthew 28:18-20.
 2. Mark 16:15-16.
- E. When one obeys the gospel, it is the church of Christ to which a person is added (Acts 2:47).
 1. Those that are saved have the obligation to go teach others how to

- be saved as well (2 Timothy 2:2).
 - 2. Christians beget Christians.
 - F. The only way that man's needs concerning sin can be met is through the pure gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Any other message leads to destruction (Galatians 1:6-9).
 - 2. Only the gospel message can save a person (Romans 10:13-15).
 - 3. That gospel of peace is the message that the blood of Christ applied to one's soul allows that one to have peace with God (Ephesians 2:16-17).
 - G. No other group on the face of the earth can meet man's greatest need.
 - H. The reason is that no other group on the earth is that called out body of believers who have been saved by obedience to the gospel of Christ.
 - I. No doubt other groups do wonderful things.
 - 1. However, none of those groups are the church for which Jesus died.
 - 2. None of those groups have the saving message of Jesus because they don't teach the saving gospel of Christ.
 - 3. They teach some of it, but have added man-made doctrines to it.

IV.

It strives to be the right nation.

- A. Notice the words of Peter, describing Christians (1 Peter 2:9).
 - 1. There are some beautiful descriptive terms of the church in this verse.
 - 2. One of those is "an holy nation."
- B. The word translated "church" in the Greek language simply means, "called out ones."
 - 1. It carries the idea of being called out of the world.
 - 2. We left the world behind to become nothing but Christians.
- C. As such, we are to be holy.
 - 1. The word translated "holy" carries the idea of separation.
 - 2. Separation from the world is the emphasis of the word.
- D. When one obeys the gospel, meeting our greatest need, that person is a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - 1. We have shown the world that we are different.
 - 2. We no longer serve Satan, or sin, and we now serve the Lord (Romans 6:17).
- E. We then strive, to the best of our abilities, to live holy lives.
 - 1. Lives that are different from those around us who are in sin.
 - 2. Romans 12:1-2.
 - 3. 1 Peter 1:15-16.
- F. We don't always live up to that standard.
 - 1. Christians aren't people who never sin.
 - 2. We stumble and err from the truth from time to time.
- G. However, we have access to the blood of Christ through repentance and

prayer, so that we can get back to being who God wants us to be.

H. Only those in Christ have this privilege.

I. No other group can be that holy nation about which Peter was inspired to write.

1. No other group is in Christ.

2. No other group has people added to it by Christ.

From an outline by Mark Posey