

20 Advantages of the Church of Christ

1. The Church of Christ loves and glorifies Jesus Christ as the only Head of His Church.
2. The Church of Christ uses His Name to identify His Church. This Name was used most by the early Christians for hundreds of years.
3. The Church of Christ teaches the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42) given by the Holy Spirit in the first century AD. According to the apostle Paul that doctrine was never to be changed (Gal 1:6-9).
4. Members of the Church of Christ are called to be disciples (students). The word "Christian" is used three times in the New Testament primarily by outsiders.
5. All churches of Christ are autonomous around the world. There are over 50,000 churches of Christ (we know of). We have no head or organization on Earth. We have no creed books, manuals... Only the Bible and Jesus Christ connects us. We are the opposite of a cult, as some people call us.
6. The Church of Christ is unique. We are neither Catholic, denominational, nor non-denominational. That is, we have been teaching, worshipping and practicing the same way for almost 2000 years. You might say, we are *pre-denominational*.
7. The Lord's Supper (Communion) is observed and practiced every first day of the week (Sunday). It is the most important part of our weekly worship (Acts 20:7). The Lord's Supper is a remembrance of His death, burial and Resurrection (I Corinthians 11), as we partake this Supper *with Him*.
8. A cappella singing is the only prescribed form of singing in the worship of the churches of Christ. We are commanded to "sing to *one another*..." We all participate in this joyful event. The only choir in the Church of Christ is its body of members, whether their voices sound "good" or not. Those who use instruments have

removed themselves from the Lord's church by using something ascribed only to the old Testament priesthood and the sacrificial system (Galatians 6:1-5). It was not used in any worship for a thousand years on a regular basis, and then only by the Holy Roman Empire church. Even the early reformers rejected its use.

9. The Church of Christ is not a building, but people. Where we meet, does not define who we are Acts chapter 2).

10. The leadership of the Church of Christ is according to the Apostles original pattern (I Timothy chapter 3). New Covenant (Testament), as Jesus set it up. Elders (pastors, bishops, and teachers) are appointed in each church of Christ to counsel, shepherd and make sure the Word of Jesus is taught and obeyed. Deacons are special church administrators, who oversee the physical needs of the church. Evangelists preach, teach and equip the church for the work or ministry. According to Ephesians 4, every member of the church is a minister of the church. No one is more important than the other. Our women have a "seat (place) of honor" in the church because of their godliness and service. Jesus said "The greatest among you, shall be your servant." All members of the Lord's church are commanded to submit to one another in the fear of the Lord (Ephesians 5:21)

11. The Church of Christ is bound together by Christ's love (John 3:31, 32).

12. The church of Christ is not funded by outsiders. Nor do we advertise on television, radio, or internet begging for money as many do. Individual churches have responded to natural disasters with millions of dollars, appliances, building supplies, etc., without getting national attention.

13. Members of the Church of Christ are courageous. We have been lied about, persecuted, misrepresented, and murdered since the beginning of the Church, around 33 a. d. We have been called a cult, haters, people with an evil spirit, and false teachers. We have been burned at the stake for teaching our children the Lord's Prayer in English in times past (www.traces-of-the-kingdom.org).

14. Members of the Church of Christ are truth-seekers. We cannot and will not compromise God's word regardless of modern culture and beliefs.

15. The worship in the church of Christ is peaceful, collective and spiritual. We worship in spirit and truth and do not come to the assembly to be entertained, but to be enlightened.

16. Members of the Church of Christ take care of each other.

17. The church of Christ is consistent in Biblical interpretation. Its preachers are not afraid to be challenged, as their teaching comes from the Word of God.

18. The church of Christ believes in the power of prayer.

19. The church of Christ is a spiritual fellowship. We are committed to our "ONE body, ONE Spirit,... ONE Hope,... ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism (by immersion), and ONE God and Father."

(Eph 4:4-6)

20. The church of Christ exists to fulfill the Will of God. We strive to be humble, fear God and love one another.