

ITS FOUNDER -- CHRIST

He is purchaser, Acts 20:28
He is builder, Matt. 16:18
He is head, Eph. 5:23
He is lawgiver, Acts 2:36
He is savior, Eph. 5:23

DID JESUS CHRIST ESTABLISH YOUR CHURCH?

ITS FOUNDATION -- THE SON OF GOD

"This rock -- the Christ of God," Matt. 16:18
The "laid foundation," I Cor. 3:11
The "tried" foundation, Isa. 28:16
The apostolic foundation, Eph. 2:20

IS CHRIST OR MAN THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR CHURCH?

ITS ORIGIN -- A.D. 33 IN JERUSALEM

After Jesus tried but failed to hold its builder, Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:31
While apostles lived, Mk. 9:1
When Holy Spirit and power came, Mk. 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4
When the "word of the Lord" went "forth from Jerusalem,"
Isa. 2:2, 3; Lk. 24:49

DID YOUR CHURCH BEGIN AT JERUSALEM ON PENTECOST, A.D. 33?

ITS DESIGNATIONS -- BY APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY

Christ called it:
"My church," Matt. 16:18
"My kingdom," Lk. 22:30; Jno. 18:36
"The Kingdom of heaven," Matt. 16:19
"The Kingdom of God," Jno. 3:5; Lk. 22:16
Apostles called it:
"The church," Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22; 3:10; 5:23-32
"The church of the Lord," Acts 20:28
"The church of God," I Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:13
"Churches of Christ" (Sing. - "church of Christ"), Rom. 16:16
"The house of God," I Tim. 3:15
"The household of God," Eph. 2:19
"The household of faith," Gal. 6:10
"The Kingdom of God," Acts 28:23, 31
"The Kingdom of God's dear Son," Col. 1:13
"A Kingdom which cannot be shaken," Heb. 12:28

IS YOUR CHURCH MENTIONED BY THE APOSTLES?

ITS MEMBERSHIP -- PERSONS WHO:

Hear the word of the gospel, Rom. 10:17; Acts 18:8
Believe the gospel, Acts 18:8; I Cor. 1:2
Repent of their sins, Acts 2:38, 47
Confess the Christ, Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10
Are baptized:
Buried, Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12
In water, Acts 8:36-39; 10:47, 48
To wash away sins, Acts 22:16
For remission of sins, Acts 2:38
To be saved, I Pet. 3:21
Into Christ, Gal. 3:27
Into the one body, the church, I Cor. 12:13

HAVE YOU MET THESE CONDITIONS?

ITS WORSHIP -- "IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH"

Communion, I Cor. 10:16; 11:20-30; Acts 20:7
Singing, Eph. 5:18, 19; Col. 3:16
Praying, Acts 2:42; I Thess. 5:17, 25
Giving, I Cor. 16:1, 2; II Cor. 9:7
Teaching, Acts 2:42; I Tim. 3:15

DOES YOUR CHURCH WORSHIP ONLY IN THESE ACTS?

ITS WORK -- SAVING SOULS

Preaching the gospel, I Thess. 1:8; II Cor. 11:8; Phil. 4:14-18
Providing for its poor, Acts 4:34, 35; 6:1-7; I Tim. 5:16
Edifying itself, Eph. 4:11-16

IS YOUR CHURCH WORKING THE WORKS OF GOD OR MEN?

MARKS THAT MATTER PLUS THE PERSONAL TEST

"EXAMINE YOURSELVES, WHETHER YE BE IN THE FAITH;
PROVE YOUR OWN SELVES" -- 2 Cor. 13:5

ITS DOCTRINE -- THE NEW TESTAMENT

Christ is the Lawgiver, Eph. 4:7-16; 5:24
The Holy Spirit is the Revealer, I Cor. 2:13; Eph. 3:1-6
The apostles' teaching is its manual, Acts 2:42; Eph. 2:20

IS THE DOCTRINE OF YOUR CHURCH THE APOSTLES' WORD ONLY?

ITS ORGANIZATION -- CONGREGATIONAL

Organically independent of every other local church
Self-governing under Christ, the heavenly bishop, Acts 14:23;
I Pet. 5:4; 2:25; Phil. 1:1
With bishops (elders, pastors, presbyters) who feed, tend,
oversee, and rule the flock among them, Acts 20:17, 28;
I Pet. 5:2-4; I Tim. 3:1-7; Heb. 13:17
With deacons to serve, I Tim. 3:8-13
With members who minister in word and deed,
I Cor. 12:24-27

DOES YOUR CHURCH HAVE ANY ORGANIZATION GREATER THAN A LOCALIZED ARRANGEMENT?

ITS ENABLING GRACE -- ETERNAL LOVE

Gives the Lamb's body for sacrifice, Heb. 9:26-28
Gives the Lamb's blood for atonement, Heb. 9:14
Gives the Priest to intercede, Heb. 7:21-28
Gives the Prophet to teach, Heb. 1:1, 2; Acts 3:22, 23
Gives the King to rule, I Tim. 6:15
Gives the Judge to reward, Matt. 25:31-46
Gives heaven as its hope, I Cor. 15:19; I Pet. 1:3-5

DOES YOUR CHURCH LOOK HEAVENWARD FOR HELP?

ITS DESTINY -- HEAVEN

By heaven's wisdom it was purposed, Eph. 3:10, 11
By heaven's love it was purchased, Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28
By heaven's grace it is kept, Rom. 5:2; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 4:16
For heaven's glory it hopes, II Tim. 2:10; Heb. 2:10;
I Pet. 5:1, 10
To heaven it will go, I Pet. 1:4; Col. 1:5
In heaven it will remain, I Thess. 4:17; I Cor. 15:24
In heaven it shall rest, Heb. 4:8-11

IS HEAVEN THE DESTINY OF YOUR CHURCH?

"EVERY PLANT WHICH MY HEAVENLY FATHER
HATH NOT PLANTED, SHALL BE ROOTED UP"

Matt. 15:13

ITS UNITY -- UNDENOMINATIONAL

The Savior prayed for it, Jno. 17:20, 21
The apostles pled for it, I Cor. 1:10
The apostles present the plan of it, Eph. 4:4-6
ONE body -- unity in organism (parts), Rom. 12:4, 5; I Cor. 12:12-27
ONE Spirit -- unity in life, I Cor. 1:10; Gal. 5:22-24
ONE hope -- unity in trust, I Thess. 4:13-18; I Pet. 1:3, 4
ONE Lord -- unity in authority, I Cor. 8:5, 6b
ONE faith -- unity in message, Gal. 1:6-12
ONE baptism -- unity in practice
As regards subjects -- believers, Acts 8:12
As regards action -- a burial, Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4
As regards design -- salvation, I Pet. 3:21
ONE God -- unity in worship, I Cor. 8:5, 6a
The faithful perpetuate it, Eph. 4:1-3

IS YOUR CHURCH A DENOMINATION?

ITS UNIVERSALITY -- ALL NATIONS

The commission of its heralds is world-wide, Matt. 28:18-20
Its scope involves every race, color and tongue, Mk. 16:15, 16
Its invitation is to all, Rev. 22:17
Its duration is age lasting, I Cor. 15:23-26
Its fellowship is for the obedient, I Jno. 1:7
Its benefits are eternal, II Pet. 1:10, 11; Rev. 22:2

IS YOUR CHURCH UNIVERSAL IN TIME AND MEMBERSHIP?

ITS MESSAGE -- THE GOSPEL

Facts to believe:
Death of Christ, I Cor. 15:1-3
Burial of Christ, I Cor. 15:4
Resurrection of Christ and its evidence, I Cor. 15:4-9
Commands to obey:
Believe in Christ, Mk. 16:16; Acts 16:31
Repent of sins, Acts 17:31; 2:38
Be baptized, Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Pet. 3:21
Promises to enjoy:
Remission of sins, Acts 2:38; 3:19
Communion of the Holy Spirit, II Cor. 13:14
Eternal life, Rev. 2:10; 22:14

DOES YOUR CHURCH PREACH THE PURE GOSPEL?

ITS GOVERNMENT -- AN ABSOLUTE MONARCHY

In heaven is its head, Eph. 1:19-21; 4:8-10
From heaven came its law, Eph. 1:22; 4:11-16; Rom. 8:2
Under heaven it serves, Eph. 5:23, 24
Toward heaven it worships, Jno. 4:24; Acts 12:5

IS THE GOVERNMENT OF YOUR CHURCH FROM HEAVEN OR MEN?

ITS LIFE -- DEVOTION

To the word of Christ
As the eternal word, Matt. 24:35; I Pet. 1:25
As the inspired word, II Tim. 3:16; I Cor. 2:13
As the life giving word, Matt. 4:4
As the infallible word, Psm. 119:160
As the saving word, Jas. 1:21
As the complete word, II Tim. 3:16, 17
As the sufficient word, II Tim. 3:16, 17
As the powerful word, Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16
As the comforting word, I Thess. 4:14-18
To the example of Christ, I Pet. 2:21
Toward His family, Lk. 2:51; Jno. 19:26, 27
Toward His heavenly Father, Jno. 5:30; 6:38; 8:29; Lk. 22:42
Toward civil government, Matt. 22:15-22
Toward His enemies, Matt. 5:43-48; Lk. 23:34
Toward lost men, Matt. 18:11; Lk. 15
Toward the church itself, Eph. 5:25

IS YOUR CHURCH DEVOTED TO THE WORD AND EXAMPLE OF CHRIST?