Why Are There So Many Churches?

Our Plea For A Return To New Testament Christianity
The Plan And Prayer Of Jesus

Matthew 16:18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it”

John 17:21 “That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent me”
The Establishment Of The Church

- First gospel sermon (Acts 2:14–39)
- Saved added to church (Acts 2:47)
- “They continued steadfastly...” (Acts 2:42)

Death, Burial & Resurrection
Matthew 27–28

Ascension of Christ
Acts 1

Day of Pentecost
Acts 2

40 days

10 days
The Book Of Acts: Examples Of Conversion

Day of Pentecost
Acts 2

Ethiopian Nobleman
Acts 8

Cornelius and His Household
Acts 10

The Samaritans
Acts 8

Saul of Tarsus
Acts 9

Philippian Jailer
Acts 16
The Early Church

Governed By The Apostles...

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come” (John 16:13)

Till The Completion Of The New Testament...

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16–17)

“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3)
After The Apostles Died

A Gradual Departure From The Word Of God

- Presiding Elder
- Bishop
- Diocese
- Council of Bishops
- Country Bishops
- Arch Bishops
- The Pope (606 A.D.)
The Falling Away Brought Many Changes

- Council of Nicea (325 A.D.)
- Latin Mass (394 A.D.)
- Purgatory (593 A.D.)
- Transubstantiation (1000 A.D.)
- Celibacy of Priests (1015 A.D.)
- Indulgences (1192 A.D.)
- Auricular Confession (1215 A.D.)
- Sprinkling (1311 A.D.)
“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10)
The Seed Of The Kingdom

“The seed is the word of God” (Luke 8:11)

The Bible Alone → Christian
Bible + Methodist Discipline → Methodist
Bible + Baptist Manual → Baptist
Bible + Book of Mormon → Mormon

Denominations result when men tamper with the seed!
Abiding In The Doctrine Of Christ

Organization Of The Church:
   Elders, Deacons, Evangelists and Members (Philippians 1:1)

Acts Of Worship:
   Singing (Colossians 3:16)
   Praying (Acts 2:42)
   Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1,2)
   Teaching (Acts 2:42)
   Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23–29)

The Work Of The Church:
   Evangelism (Acts 13:1–3)
   Edification (Ephesians 4:11–16)
   Benevolence (Romans 15:25,26)

Names Used To Describe The Church:
   Church of God (1 Corinthians 1:2)
   Church of Christ (Romans 16:16)
   House of God (1 Timothy 3:15)
   Household of faith (Galatians 6:10)

Names Used To Describe Members:
   Disciples, Christians (Acts 11:26)
   Saints (Romans 1:7)
   Brethren (Galatians 6:1)

“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9)
Outside The Doctrine Of Christ

Yearly Communion
Worldly Living
Cake Sales
Political Motives
Earthly Headquarters
Creed Books
Social Gospel
Clergy / Laity
False Doctrine

The New Testament

Name, Organization And Practice Of The Church Of Christ

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11)
Our Plea Is For A Return To First Century Christianity!

Book, chapter and verse.
Everything the Scriptures teach.
Nothing the Scriptures do not teach.
Call Bible things by Bible names.
Do Bible things in Bible ways.
Back to the Bible!