



# Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

Matthew 16:13-18

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## Denominational Concept





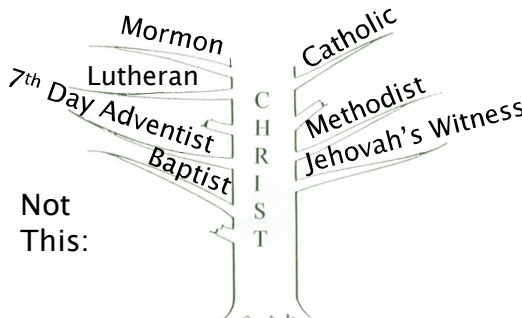
SO:

- Catholic
- Lutheran
- Baptist
- Methodist
- 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist
- Mormon
- Jehovah's Witness



**Invisible Church**

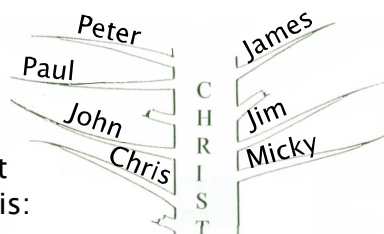
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Not This:

*John 15:5 - "I am the vine ... Ye are the branches"*

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But This:

*John 15:5-6, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for apart from me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."*

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## Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

- ▶ **Founded upon Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**  
Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11;  
1 Corinthians 2:2

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## Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

- ▶ **Began in Jerusalem about 33 AD**  
Isaiah 2:3; Matthew 3:2; Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 10:9; Matthew 10:7; Mark 9:1;  
Luke 24:44ff; Acts 1:6-8; 2:1-4,47; 11:15

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## Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

- ▶ **Christ is its head and only source of authority.** Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 1:22-23; Matthew 21:23-27; Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46
  
- ▶ **Not:**
  - Old Testament.
  - The preacher.
  - Creeds of men.
  - Desires of the congregation.
  - Elders.
  - Results accomplished.

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## Why Am I A Member Of The Church Of Christ?

- ▶ **Organized after the divine pattern.**  
**Philippians 1:1**
  - Elders: Acts 14:23; 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1ff; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-7
  - Deacons: 1 Timothy 3:8-13
  - Members: 1 Corinthians 12:12ff

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