



## Is the Name of a Church Important?

I traveled home on a Sunday afternoon and as my chauffeur drove, I tried to locate a Church of Christ or Christian Church from his Internet phone for Sunday evening service. I could not find one having services in the area where we were at that time (60 miles).

Today, churches are not identifying themselves by Christ's Name. They just identify the church and when Christians are traveling they cannot find a congregation that observes the Lord's Supper or preaches the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

If you do not know the specific names of the churches, you cannot find them. The same is true of people moving into their area. Churches do not help their brothers and sisters obey apostolic teaching of the observance of the Lord's Supper, nor listening to faithful Gospel preaching. As a result, by the time churches are located, they are already locked into denominational churches.

To me it is a shame not to mention the Lord's Name so that those traveling can find where His Bride assembles.

The bride should wear the husband's name. When I want to find a married woman, I ought to be able to find her by looking for her husband's name and address.

I don't think Progressives are very practical.

## What's New at Summit?

Summit School of Preaching (SSP) ended its first year of Resident classes with a total of 20 different students from 5 different States. We had 7 professors and 4 guest professors.

Second year Fall Semester of Resident Schooling will begin August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 until December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and Spring Semester will begin January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 until May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

MP3's on thumbdrive – Audio courses are now being offered in MP3 format on thumbdrives for those who have an MP3 converter. Not all CD's or sermons are on MP3 so please contact us for availability! Many thanks to Brother Billy Dyer for assisting us in converting many of the formerly recorded cassette-taped courses to the newer form of media.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the SSP Dorm went under renovation beginning this year. (The Middle posts you see below have since been removed and are supported by two ceiling beams.)



A new and larger classroom is being added to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the SSP along with a small break area and restroom facility so larger classes can be provided without having to leave the dorm.

If you desire to tour the Summit facilities to get a better understanding of our work here, please contact us to make an appointment! We would love to have you visit.

The SSP is available to restoration churches for retreats. This will allow them to meet and stay overnight in the same building in which they hold their retreat. The rooms are Motel-like rather than dorm-like.

The new classroom will hold 60 plus attendees. Call us at 765-472-4111 if you are interested.

**More preachers are giving us their libraries. Thank you.**

## JESUS SAID, "NO-ONE COMES TO THE FATHER, EXCEPT THROUGH ME"

(John 14:6)

But **HOW** does a person come to God through Jesus?

### 1-a. By Faith

**Galatians 3:24**, So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. NIV, 1981 edition

### 2-a. By Repentance

**Acts 17:30**, In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. NIV

### 3-a. By Confession

**1John 1:9**, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. NIV

**Romans 10:9**, ... if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord",..., you will be saved. NIV

### 4-a. By Immersion (Baptism)

**Acts 2:38b**, "...be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...." RSV

### Confused? Do you wonder which saves you?

Note in the Scriptures below the use of the word "AND". It clarifies HOW people come to God through Jesus as God instructs in His Word.

### 1-b. By Faith Only? NO!

**Acts 20:21**, "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they MUST turn to God in repentance **AND** have faith in our Lord Jesus." NIV

**James 2:24**, "Ye see then how that by WORKS a man is justified, and NOT by faith only." KJV

[Another translation] **James 2:24**, "You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone." NIV

[Another translation] **James 2:24**, "Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith." American Standard, 1900 edition

### 2-b. By Repentance Only? NO!

**Acts 20:21**, "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they MUST turn to God in repentance **AND** have faith in our Lord Jesus." NIV

**Acts 26:20**, "First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God **AND** prove their repentance by their DEEDS." NIV

### 3-b. By Confession Only ? NO!

**Matthew 7:21**, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who DOES the will of my Father who is in heaven." NIV

**Romans 10:9-10**, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," **AND** believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, **AND** it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." NIV

### 4-b. By Immersion (Baptism) Only? NO!

**Acts 2:38** "...Repent **AND** be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." RSV

**Acts 2:38**, "Repent," Peter said to them, "and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." HCSB

**1 Peter 3:21**, "and this water symbolizes baptism that now **saves you** also-not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience towards God. **It saves you by the resurrection** of Jesus Christ," NIV

Is the picture clearer? A person is saved by combining faith **AND** repentance **AND** confession **AND** immersion (baptism) **AND** (you will note from the Scriptures above: **James 2:24, Acts 26:20 & Matthew 7:21**) obedient actions.

To hope for salvation on the basis of any ONE virtue is to hope the Word of God is totally confused about all those "**AND**'s".

Let no one confuse you or deceive you. The messages of these Scriptures clearly instruct us on **HOW** to come to the Father through Jesus. The 'how' is clear but not necessarily easy. Perhaps, repentance is the most difficult element because it consists of 1.) A genuine repudiation of ones personal sins as well as 2.) Embracing the new life of holiness.

--Written by Donald Kibler

# Age Of Accountability

— Search for and answer.

By Elder Arza Boswell – Ravenwood, MO

Jason was so special. Why? He would never excel in sports. As a matter of fact, when he was only a few weeks old, it became apparent he was severally handicapped and we were concerned that he might not ever be able to walk. Other questions came to our mind. Would he be able to sit up? Would he even be able to talk? Would he ever go to school?

One thing we hadn't taken into consideration was Jason's determination. So what happened? Jason ended up accomplishing all those things we were concerned about, to a lesser degree than most, but he gave it his best effort.

Jason had a mother and father who spent endless hours helping him, making sure that he had every opportunity to reach his full potential. He spent most of his school years with a special group of students and had a wonderful teacher, who moved along with the group as they went from one level to the next. Jason was a competitor and Special Olympics had a special appeal and interest for him.

This is to introduce you to my grandson. We spent many hours together. I loved him like a son. When he died suddenly, while practicing for Special Olympics competition, it nearly broke my heart. The grief process for me was long and difficult. You see, Jason was twenty-three years old, and though he attended church on a regular basis and participated in all activities to the best of his ability, Jason had never been baptized. I called on my knowledge of the Scriptures for an answer and the struggle was a long one. Let me tell you about it.

My active participation in Christianity at the time of this writing had spanned a period of fifty-seven years. During that time I had heard over and over the term, "Age of Accountability". However, I don't recall ever discussing it in depth, hearing a sermon about it, or reading in the many periodicals any articles regarding it. Why not? It is vitally important in understanding God's direction for our lives.

Because of the many questions on the subject and the scarcity of answers from several scholarly individuals who I thought could lead me through this thirsty void, and because of the death of my twenty-three year old handicapped grandson, in March of 2002, I undertook a Spiritual search of my own.

In the year 2004, I read through the Bible with a determination to settle this "Age of Accountability" question in my mind. I am not a scholar. My analysis will not meet the criterion of those who are, but it will help me to put to rest questions, which have disturbed me.

Scriptures I will use are from the NASB unless designated otherwise. They are not new to me, but with this search in mind, some will take on special significance. Let me begin with a question. Does God specify an age of accountability as far as Abraham's descendants are concerned? I believe He does.

No less than ten times, in the NASB we read these words: "Twenty years old and upward", beginning with **Exodus 30:14**. When the children of Israel were numbered, God instructed Moses that every man should give a ransom for his soul that there be no plague among them, and in the fourteenth verse God specifies that the instructions are for those from twenty years old and upward. When ten of the spies brought a report, after spying out the Promised Land, which convinced the people not to go forward, this made God angry. In **Numbers 14:29-30a**, "God told Moses and Aaron, "Your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men according to your complete number, from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me. Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you."

These and other verses I could mention indicate to me that as far as the children of Israel were concerned, God took into account an age at which people are not yet capable of making mature judgments, and these people are less responsible for decisions which they might make.

(NOTE - Editor Arza is not advocating waiting until age 21 to immerse believers.)

However a passage in **Deuteronomy 1:39** which states, "Moreover your little ones who you said would become prey, and your sons, **who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them and they shall possess it**" and **Nehemiah 8:3**, "He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, **those who could understand**; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law" leads me to believe that **God is not only considering age, but also the ability to reason**. This of course, was what I was looking for in the case of my grandson.

The whole assembly of the people who had returned from Babylon requested that Ezra, the scribe, bring the book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. (NASB) **Nehemiah 8:2-3**, "Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women **and all who could listen with understanding**, on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, **those who could understand**: and all the people were attentive to the book of the law." (*Emphasis mine. AWB*)

There is an interesting Scripture in **Isaiah 7:15b** that says, "**He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good**"

The commentators seem to think this suggests the age of moral determination and responsibility under the law and they further speculate that the age would be twelve or thirteen years.

It appears to me after reading **Nehemiah 8:2** that those who were not mature enough to understand, were not expected to be in this assembly. And from reading **Deuteronomy 1:39**, "The *little ones* have no knowledge of good and evil" And again from reading **Isaiah 7:15-16** God indicates there is an age span when one does not know enough to refuse evil and choose good.

**Maxine Fream Gash read these thoughts and added one of her own and I want to include it along with mine.**

*May I suggest another Scripture you could use about those under the age of accountability? The very last verse in the book of Jonah, God is giving Jonah reason why he is having mercy on the city of Nineveh: "And should not I have compassion on Nineveh, that great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"*

*In the Lamb, Maxine*

My conclusion from these readings is that God excused those who were not mature enough to understand, which would not be determined by age. The determination of accountability is not really in years, but in understanding.

It fits into the equation of a child, "knowing enough to refuse evil and choose good" or in the case of Ezra's reading of the law to those who could understand.

All this leads me to a conclusion, for now at least, that sin is not imputed to little children or even adults, which fit into this category. If the time comes when I have more understanding, I reserve the right to change my thinking.

Other verses, which lend credibility to this thinking, are verses like **Hebrews 11:6** and **Mark 16:16b**, a couple of verses, which tell us that a person must believe. They must be capable of understanding. Once again let me reiterate, the age of accountability, is only applicable when it is coupled with the ability to understand and comprehend. **Years by themselves are not a credible measuring stick.**

Much more could be said about how much a person needs to understand. How much knowledge about Jesus, God, and sin are necessary for a person to be an acceptable candidate for baptism?

God in His infinite wisdom gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. He went to the cross to purchase our pardon by the shedding His own precious blood. He paid the price for us. He is our perpetuation. It is a free gift.

We can't earn salvation.

But it is not automatic. We have to make a choice to except that free gift and in order to do that we must believe. We must realize that we have sinned and want to turn away from those sins. We must confess our belief in Jesus Christ before men and have a desire to do what He would have us to do from that time forward. Then we are ready to enter the waters of baptism, bury the old man of sin, and rise to walk in a newness of life.

We need to be able to understand this immeasurable gift of salvation and the opportunity we have to accept it. Then we can make that choice at whatever age it might be.

With all these Scripture verses, our readily admitted immaturity, even with our best efforts to understand the answer, we may still come up with some gray area. But we can be sure that our merciful God is a righteous discerner of the thoughts and intents of our hearts and He makes no mistakes.

Jesus tells us in **Matthew 18:3**, "Truly I say unto you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." And again in **Matthew 19:14**, "Let the little children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

What does all this reasoning convince me of?

1. The age of accountability is determined by ability to understand, not a specific age.
2. The more we understand, the more responsibility we have.
3. The more responsibility we accept, the greater our reward will be not only in Heaven, but on earth as well.
4. That we must become as little children in many ways to receive God's blessings.

How has this study helped me understand God's mercy toward my grandson, who died at the age of 23 without having been baptized into the Lord?

Let me answer by writing down a portion of my constant prayer.

Yes, I believe Jason is safely home. I believe I will see him in his new and glorified body, free from all defects.

What a blessed reward that in itself will be.

Thank you, Precious Lord, for Your mercy and grace.

In Jesus' Name,

--Amen.

# The Experiential Growth Process!

--By Arza Boswell

## Mentally and Physically!

Did you ever stick your tongue on a cold piece of steel? I did that one time when I was about 6 years old. It is quite an experience! You would like to have your tongue back, but it's fast. I don't remember how I escaped from the predicament, but I never did that foolish trick again. I learned from experience.

When we are born, there are not many things that we know. However, God created us with this amazing capacity to learn. A newborn baby quickly learns that crying will get attention. They learned it by **experience**. It worked before, so they do it again and again.

Immediately after a child is born we begin talking to them, teaching them to communicate. It takes a while but eventually they begin talking back to us. We show them how to do things and that incredible memory that God created within each of us keeps track of our experiences and they become a key to our maturing process, for no matter how old we get we can remember "back when".

We can remember when we were a small child, when we were a teenager, our courting days, our first job, our wedding day, the birth of our children, their graduation, and hopefully, the day we accepted Jesus as our Savior and turned our life over to Him. Our memory is filled with experiences from the life we live.

**Life's experiences** mold us and make us a **mature person**, capable of making wise decisions, and a useful member of society.

## A New Life – A New Birth -- A Transformed Mind!

But there is another life significantly more important than the life of 80 or 90 years we have mentioned, because it has eternal consequences. It begins when we are born again, **John 3:3b**, "Truly I say unto you, 'unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" And again He says **John 3:5b**, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of the water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

We become a new person in Christ. This is our **Spiritual life** and it begins much the same way as the physical life does. We start out as a baby in Christ we are not full-grown. There are a lot of things we have yet to learn and that is as it should be. That born-again babe is just as saved as that person who has years of spiritual learning, but that spiritual babe needs to grow.

Several years ago I was seated in a restaurant and a young lady came to wait on me, She had this button pinned on her. PBPGINFWMY. It got the desired results

because I asked her what those letters stood for? Her answer: Please Be Patient, God Is Not Finished With Me Yet.

We're not expected to be full-grown Christians with a head full of answers when we are asked us about the hope that is within us when we are just babes in Christ. However, we need to grow up; we need to mature, so that we might be productive servants of the Master.

There is a process called "experiential" or "progressive" sanctification and when it fails to happen we need to address it just as Paul did in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:1-2**, "And I brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of the flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it indeed, even now you are not able."

And in **Hebrews 5:12-14, 6:1a**, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, which, because of practice (*experience*) have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Therefore, leaving the elementary teaching about Christ, let us press on to maturity."

## Don't Confuse With the Gift Of Salvation

Sanctification must not be confused with salvation itself. That is termed, "positional or Initial sanctification". Salvation is a gift.

**Titus 3:4-6**, "But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior."

About a year ago I wrote an article on Spiritual growth and sent it out to a group of about 80 people. My son, Ken, quoted **Ephesians 2:8-10** and talked of two different kinds of works, but ended by saying, "*The second are works we do because we are in-dwelt with the Holy Spirit and it is just our new nature to do them. I don't think we can ever enjoy Christian service until we realize that it is the natural outgrowth of the new nature that the Spirit creates in us. Nothing we do can add to what Jesus did for us. We just do it because it's our genetics now. The same reason an apple tree produces apples. It can do no other naturally.*"

David Bayless had this comment: "*My Brazilian 'son,' Ricardo, lived with us off and on for two or three years. He always cleared the table after a meal. He did that because he lived here, not so he could live here. Same works, different motivation—an illustration of works we do because we are Christians, not so we can be.*"

Let me re-emphasize: When we talk about experiential sanctification, we are not talking about “positional” or “initial” sanctification, which is a gift. We are talking about the bearing of fruit that is our new nature. In **Romans 7** Paul is telling them they are freed from the Law. 4b “So that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.”

In his second letter, the apostle Peter wrote to those who had a faith of the same kind as ours, by righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ (Positional or initial sanctification), but we became partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

However, they should **add to their faith**, (Experiential or progressive sanctification) with all diligence these things: Moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love, and says, “**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:8** “For if these *qualities* are yours and are **increasing**, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” To the **Philippians** Paul has this to say: **3:14-15a** “**I press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude;” It is a way of life; it is surrender, a commitment, and a pledge that I will serve Jesus until the day I die.

Life will not always be easy. There will be hills to climb and the road may be a difficult one. God knows what it takes to get our attention. It is not His goal to destroy us. His goal is to build character in us. There will be those times when we say, “God, I can’t handle this” and if this is really true, it will be those times when He picks us up in His arms and carries us. God measures our growth by how we respond to life’s difficulties, but will not press us beyond our ability to cope with any given situation.

The key to Spiritual growth is found in **Romans 12:1-2**, “Therefore I urge you brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which* is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect”

Be like Christ! (*Experiential or progressive sanctification*) How do we do this? How do we grow up spiritually and become that mature Christian that God would have us to be? In the Hebrew letter, the writer, after listing a host of people who were justified by their faith, has this to say. **12:1-2** “Therefore since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, **let us also** lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

1. **Encumbrance:** We get rid of the excess baggage. It is easy to get so busy doing things, that there is not enough hours in the day to accomplish them all. They are not bad things. They are things that are sapping our time and strength and we have to take a look at what’s on our plate and see if there is any excess baggage there. Is there something that I can lay aside?
2. **Sin: Romans 6:1-2**, “What shall we say then! Are we to continue so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?” **Galatians 5:19-21** lists some of those sins we need to lay aside. We need to make a conscience effort to rid our lives of these things, then we will have the time and energy to load ourselves down with the fruit of the Spirit listed in **verses 22 and 23**.
3. When we become a Christian, we sign on as a part of the team. We have a race to run and we need to run it with **endurance**. It is so easy to become discouraged, want to give up, we are tired of taking on too much of the load while others don’t seem to care. We have to put those thoughts aside. They are selfish thoughts and we have little room for self if we want to be like Christ. So! When these discouraging thoughts enter our mind we need to **look to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith**.
4. Jesus could have chuckled it all. He might have said, “Father they are not worth it. They don’t care a whit for anyone but themselves. They have no desire to quit sinning. I’m down here wasting my time. Send the angels, Father and get me out of here.” But He didn’t! Because He knew that His Father is not willing that any perish, but wants them all to come to repentance. He knew about the rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner who repents. He could see the millions upon millions of Christians who would repent and follow Him **and it was for this joy set before Him that He endured the cross**.

If you want to be like Christ, you need to study the instruction Book and let it guide you to a closer walk with Him.

If you want to grow Spiritually, if you want experiential sanctification, if you want progressive sanctification, if you want people to be able to see Christ in you, if you want to be a soul winner, if you want to be a mature Christian make every effort to grow in Jesus.

Run the race with endurance. Lay aside those things that hold you back. Look beyond this veil of tears to the joy that awaits you. There is an eternity out there.

If you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, (*Initial or positional sanctification*), don’t put it off. If you stepped out of the baptistery and have never known the joy of growing and maturing, and producing fruit, (*experiential or progressive sanctification*), study the Book and begin to grow. Let the mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus.

## WEBSITE STATEMENTS OF FAITH

Many people search the Web for churches to attend when traveling, visiting, or just wanting to find a place to begin worshipping. It's very important how one's "Statement of Faith" is worded as it will tell those "surfing the web" what your congregation values most and where your emphasis will be. Here are a few edited examples how one can write a statement of faith, which aligns with God's Biblical principles without appearing ashamed of what we believe and practice.

### ~Statement Example 1~

Being a member of (*Your Church Name*) requires only that one obey the Gospel of Christ. The terms of membership are the same as the terms of pardon that is given in the New Testament for Salvation. The Scripture, which is our rule of faith and practice, shows what one MUST do to have the promise of Salvation.

### Salvation by Grace is Enjoyed When:

**ONE RECOGNIZES THAT THEY ARE A SINNER AND FALLS SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.**

"For all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God."

--Romans 3:23

**ONE COMES TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.**

"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch said, See, here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God"

--Acts 8:36-36

**ONE IS WILLING TO CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD TO BE SAVED.**

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

--Romans 10:13

"And now, why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

--Acts 22:16

**ONE WILL REPENT OF THEIR SINS.**

"Then Peter said unto them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

--Acts 2:38-39

**ONE WILL BE IMMersed TO BE FORGIVEN OF SINS.**

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

--Mark 16:16

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

--Colossians 2:12-13

**ONE WILL GLADLY RECEIVE THE WORD**

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

--Acts 2:41

"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved."

--Acts 2:47

The Lord adds such a person to the Church. The terms of pardon are therefore the terms of membership in the universal Church of Christ. If one is obedient to the terms of the Gospel, and expresses a desire to work with us in spreading the "Good News" of the Gospel, we welcome their decision. If you are a repentant believer who was immersed into Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and if you teach others that these are the terms of salvation that Jesus offers, you are welcome to join us. If you have never obeyed these terms, we encourage you to do so - and then you can go on your way rejoicing.

**Acts 8:38-39**, "38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing."

### ~Statement Example 2~

**Ephesians 4:4-6**, "There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

1. **One Body** – is comprised of all disciples of Jesus who have obeyed the Gospel. They are to work together to obey the Will of God, as they feed and support each other.

2. **One Spirit** – which is the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead who indwells and empowers each Christian.

3. **One Hope** – is our confident expectation that Christ will return and Christians will be raised from the dead in new bodies to live forever with Christ in Heaven.

4. **One Faith** – is based on our firm belief in the absolute truth of all Scripture and its message that Jesus Christ died to pay for our sins, was buried, and rose again.

5. **One Lord** – is God the Son, Jesus Christ, who paid for our sins and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father who offers salvation to all mankind.

6. **One Baptism** – is being immersed in water as the pledge of a good conscience toward God, for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

7. **One God & Father** – is one in purpose, power, and presence with the Spirit and the Son, but different in person. Everything is to be done for His glory.

~Statement Example 3~

**OUR BELIEFS:**

**WE ARE:**

1. **A Christian Church** – Our message is that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” We require no other creed. He alone is Lord and Savior.

2. **A Church of Christ** – The Church belongs to Him. We have no authority to change the teachings, rewrite the rules, alter membership requirements, or usurp His authority. We do not believe the Church is a democracy.

3. **A Church Seeking Unity** – We seek to follow Paul’s encouragement to be one in Christ with all others He calls His own.

4. **A Church Seeking to Restore** – We imitate the New Testament precedents. That is why our baptism is by immersion, our Communion is every Lord’s Day, our leaders are called “Elders”, our Preaching is about Christ, and our prayers are in Christ’s Name. Even our Church name is rooted in the earliest days, when disciples were called “Christians” and their congregations were often addressed as “Churches of Christ.”

5. **An Apostolic Church** – The Church, **Ephesians 2:20** states, “is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.” The apostles were guided into all truth so we follow their precedents.

6. **A Sharing Church** – We share our faith, love, and possessions with as many as we can; especially for world evangelism.

7. **A Free Church** – We have no area Bishops, superintendents, or national headquarters to determine local Church policies. We elect our own leaders, call and support our own ministers, and decide where our mission money will go. We are not isolationists and our congregations freely associate with one another to accomplish the tasks Jesus left His Church to do.

8. **A Growing Church** – We want to grow because we are under Christ’s commission to disciple the world. We haven’t completed the task, so we renew our commitment to go unto the ends of the earth, preaching, baptizing, and teaching, until the whole world knows the One Lord of all.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

I’ve had a busy spring since the last issue. By the time you read this, we have preached revivals or represented Summit in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Virginia, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, plus, taught at the School.

A total of 80 times this year we will have had the privilege of speaking to God’s people. When people say, “Are you retired?” I say, “No, I re-treaded!”

In addition to this, I have sold hundreds of thousands of dollars of Annuity Premiums, as this is the way I have chosen to support myself for the last 49 years.

You may want to see my Website at <http://georgelfaull.retirevillage.com>

The unsolicited giving to the School never ceases to amaze me. God is good in providing for this ministry and allowing me to support the School, as well!

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