

WHAT IS RIGHT WITH THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

1. Text: Matthew 16:16-18
2. Some even within the church of Christ are very critical of it and want to dramatically change it.
3. This lesson will explain what is good concerning the churches which believe today what they believed yesterday. Five positive things can be presented. What's right about the church today.

I. **The Objective Reality**

1. We can hear much about apostasy and defections. Can be disheartening. But need perspective.
2. Nature of news: The unusual and negative. Lawton's 100,000.
3. Romans 11:2-4 Elijah alone? No, 7000 more. Also II Timothy 4:11
4. Our summer series.

II. **The Organization**

1. The divinely given organizational plan for the church contains local autonomy (which means every individual congregation is self-contained and governed without any human authority from outside it).
2. This is vital to the church. A church nearby may fall away but that should not have any impact on any others. This is not the case in denominations.
3. Church leadership and responsibility.

III. **The Oracles Of God**

1. We still respect, accept, and desire to obey the inspired Word of God. We have no human creeds.
2. We expect our teachers and preachers to use often the text. Also, the church is "the pillar and ground of the truth." (I Timothy 3:15) We want more than "story tellers" in the pulpit.
3. We continue to measure opinions, customs, and calls for change by the Word.
4. Issue: Meat, milk, and candy
5. One or two questions? Is it Scriptural? Is it a salvation issue?

IV. **The Origin Of The Church**

1. We still firmly believe you can be a member of the church established on Pentecost (Acts 2) and not be in any denomination.
2. When one obeys the gospel as they did in the first century, one is in the same church of that time. (Again Acts 2)
3. We respect those who 200 years ago led in the move to restore NT Christianity, but we deny they began a new sect and respect their teachings only as they echo God's Word. We have no need to defend those "pioneers."
4. The Lord built, owns, and protects His church. (Matthew 16:18)

V. **The Order To Save Souls**

1. Churches loyal to the Lord still share His bold, exciting mission. He has ordered us to evangelize the world. (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20)
2. We could do better with this, but our mission still has not and must not degenerate into a social or political or psychological or even service one.
3. Worship will be a gauge of our mission. Where is its focus? Where are our funds directed?

Conclusion:

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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