

## Instructions

*This document is designed to be centered (right to left and top to bottom) on a 7x11 inch piece of paper.*

To print this document in tract format, do the following:

1. Print page 2 of this document on an 8.5x11 inch sheet.
2. Trim 3/4 of an inch off the left and right sides. Your sheet should now be 7x11 inches.
2. Turn the page over and print page 3 so that the tract pages numbered 2 and 7 are directly on the back of 1 and 8 (see diagram below).
3. Fold the paper length-wise with the cover on the front.
4. Fold again along the width (the cover should now be on the front and page 8 should be on the back).
5. Staple twice along the spine (saddle staplers or long reach staplers can be purchased at office supply stores, but any standard stapler with at least a 4.5 inch throat should work as well). The staples need to be inserted so that the points are located inside the tract.
6. Trim the across the top of the tract using scissors, trim board, etc. so that it can be opened. Try to cut off no more that 1/8 of an inch; remember, you are just trimming the tract enough so it can be opened.

5	4
8	1 (Cover)

3	6
2	7

The Lord Himself stated the work of the church is to go into all the world to the rescue of lost souls. That is to:

Preach the gospel — (*Mark 16.15-16; 2 Corinthians 11.8*)

Edify itself — (*Ephesians 4.11-16; Galatians 6.1-2*)

Provide for its poor — (*Gal. 6.9-10; 1 Tim. 5.16*)

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### WORK

Today, this is another area of confusion in the religious realm. Almost all are divided in the way to worship God. They have gathered up to themselves many different and distinct forms of worship. Worship must be in spirit and in truth, says Christ. (*John 4.24*). In the New Testament Church, we notice, true worship consists of the following:

Communion (*Acts 20.7; 1 Cor. 10.16; 11.23-30*)

Preaching (*Acts 2.42; 20.7*)

Giving (*1 Corinthians 16.1-2; 2 Corinthians 9.6-7*)

Praying (*Acts 2.42; 1 Thessalonians 5.17*)

Singing (*Ephesians 5.19; Colossians 3.16*)

### WORSHIP

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Published by **Gospel Tracts International**  
 A Ministry of Baldwin Church of Christ, U.S.A.

Since the above only is what the scriptures authorize, it is my solemn plea to the masses to reject outright all other offices created by men, and accept the New Testament way. For, after all, the New Testament alone serves as the right standard by which Christians must live in life and service to God.

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Organization in the Lord's church is as carefully set out as the organization of any sound institution would be. That goes a long way to eliminate unqualified men ruling the flock. The local congregation is organically independent of every other local congregation. It is self-governing under Christ, the heavenly bishop. (*1 Peter 5.4; 2.25*).

To follow, are earthly bishops, same as elders, pastors, presbyters, who feed, tend, oversee, and rule the flock. (*Acts 20.17, 28; 1 Peter 5.2-4; 1 Timothy 3.1-7; Hebrews 13.17*). With deacons to serve (*1 Timothy 3.8-13*), and with members who minister in word and deed. (*1 Corinthians 12.24-27*).

### ORGANIZATION: CONGREGATIONAL

"The Kingdom of God's dear Son" (*Col. 1.13*)  
 "A Kingdom which cannot be shaken" (*Heb. 12.28*)

# What Is The Church of Christ?



by **Seth E. Osae-Larbi**

### NOT A DENOMINATION

The general misconception of many that the Church of Christ is a denomination is deeply to be deplored. Denomination suggests a fraction or part of the whole. The Lord's Church and denominations are absolutely incompatible to each other.

Protestant denominations saw their beginning when Luther, in an open rebellion to Roman Catholicism, wrote his famous Ninety-five Theses, a bill of charge against the Catholic Church, and nailed it to the doors of the Schlosskirche of Wittenburg on October 31, 1517. His charges were mainly against the doctrines of the primacy of the Pope, indulgences and purgatory. From that beginning came the Lutheran church,

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“Household of faith” (*Galatians 6.10*)  
 “House of God” (*1 Timothy 3.15*)  
 “Christ” (*Romans 16.16*)  
 “Churches of Christ” (singular): “Church of  
 Christ” (*1 Corinthians 1.2*)  
 “The Church” (*Colossians 1.18; Ephesians 1.22*)  
**The Apostles called it:**  
 “The Kingdom of God” (*John 3.5; Luke 22.16*)  
 “My church” (*Matthew 16.18*)

**Christ called it:**  
 The following are but a few of them:  
 Since God does not bring about confusion, He gave  
 designations by which the church might be known.

**DESIGNATIONS**

God's prophet Isaiah had foretold  
 in prophecy about its establishment in *Isaiah 2.2-4*.  
*Upon this rock, I will build my church.* It was really estab-  
 lished on the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrec-  
 tion from the dead when 3,000 souls believed the  
 gospel preached by Peter and were baptized into  
 Christ that same day. (*Acts 2.41-47*).

later to be followed in 1536 by John Calvin and the  
 Presbyterian church in Switzerland and many others  
 until today.

**THE CALLED OUT OR BLOOD-BOUGHT**

The word “church” means the “called out.” All  
 who have been called out of the world of sin consti-  
 tute the church. It would mean those who have  
 believed Jesus and are thus sanctified by his precious  
 blood. Of these brethren, Paul says, “*The church of  
 the Lord which He hath purchased with His own  
 blood.*” (*Acts 20.28*). It is the end product of the  
 gospel grown in the hearts of men. (*Luke 8.11; 1  
 Peter 1.25*).

**ONE BODY**

The Church of Christ is the one body of Christ  
 (“*There is one body,*” *Ephesians 4.4*, “*...for His  
 body's sake, which is the church,*” *Colossians  
 1.24*). So you see, there is one body and the body  
 is the church. So how many churches are there?  
 Think it over!!

**ORIGIN**

The church of Christ is a divine institution because  
 it belongs to Christ. The Lord Himself made the

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Until now, the Bible convicts all men of sin, and the  
 wages thereof being a second death. (*Romans 3.23*;  
*6.23; Revelation 21.8*). Yet, God has promised to  
 save only those who obey the Gospel of Christ.  
 (*Romans 1.16; Hebrews 5.8-9*). The gospel has these  
 facts to be believed: the death, burial, and resurrec-

tion of Christ in man's place. When one from the  
 heart obeys the gospel, he enters the Lord's body, and  
 hence becomes a member of the Lord's church — 1  
 Corinthians 12.13; Colossians 1.24. Concerning the  
 gospel, God commands us to:

**Hear** — *Romans 10.17*  
**Believe** — *Acts 18.8*  
**Repent** — *Acts 2.38; 17.30-31*  
**Confess** — *Acts 8.37; Romans 10.10*  
**Be Baptized** (immersed)—*Romans 6.3-4; Colos-  
 sians 2.12; Acts 22.16*

**MEMBERSHIP**

In Ghana today, the tendency is for one to join the  
 church of his choice. “I was born into it.” “I was born  
 a Methodist.” “I was born and bred as a Presbyte-  
 rian.” some retort. They seem to feel that since their  
 parents belonged to a certain denominational group,  
 they are by virtue of birth, members of the same  
 denomination even before they are baptized into it.  
 Would such doctrine or faith not surely reflect in  
 many ways upon the integrity of the word of God?

In this tract, I plead with readers to draw their  
 attention to the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus  
 concerning entrance into the Kingdom of heaven.  
 (*John 3.1-5*). Our Lord's emphasis was on the fact  
 that birth by flesh is not the entry requirement into the  
 Kingdom, but rather birth by the Spirit and water as  
 one easily makes out from the passage. Thus, it  
 becomes far from saying, “I was born into it.”

*The Church's one foundation,  
 Is Jesus Christ her Lord  
 She is His new Creation  
 By water and the word  
 From heaven He came and sought her  
 To be His Holy bride  
 With His own blood He bought her  
 And for her life He died.*

*Visit the church of Christ in you community.*