

The Church of the Bible

The Identity of the Church

- I. Identifying Marks Relating to the Origin of the Church
 - A. It was founded by Jesus (Matthew 16:18).
 - B. It was founded in Jerusalem (Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1:4; 2:5).
 - C. It was founded on the Day of Pentecost in AD 33 [or, AD 30] (Acts 2).

- II. Identifying Marks Relating to the Description of the Church
 - A. It wears the name of Christ (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:22-23).
 - B. Its members are called “Christians” (Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16; cf. Acts 4:12).
 - C. It is singular – there is only one church (Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 1:18).
 - D. It has only one source of doctrine – the Bible (Revelation 22:18-19).
 - E. Its members are faithful servants (1 John 2:15; James 4:4; Gal. 5:22-23; Rev. 2:10).

- III. Identifying Marks Relating to the Organization of the Church
 - A. Jesus is the only head (Colossians 1:18).
 - B. Members submit to His authority by obeying the Gospel (1 Peter 4:17).
 - 1. Hear (Romans 10:17)
 - 2. Believe (Hebrews 11:6)
 - 3. Repent (Acts 17:30)
 - 4. Confess faith (Romans 10:9-10)
 - 5. Be baptized (Mark 16:16)
 - 6. Then, added by the Lord to the church (Acts 2:47)
 - C. Elders oversee local congregations (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1).
 - D. Deacons serve under the elders (1 Timothy 3).
 - E. It has no earthly headquarters.

- IV. Identifying Marks Relating to the Worship of the Church
 - A. On the first day of the week (Acts 20:7)
 - B. Singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16)
 - C. Praying (Acts 2:42)
 - D. Preaching (Acts 20:7)
 - E. Partaking of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7)
 - F. Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

- V. Identifying Marks Relating to the Work of the Church
 - A. Benevolence (Galatians 6; James 2)
 - B. Edification (Hebrews 3:12-14)
 - C. Evangelism (Mark 16:15-16)