

# The Church of the Bible

## The Name of the Church

- I. Man-made Names Are Sinful
- A. Man-made denominations usually wear man-made names.
    - 1. To honor their founder
    - 2. To highlight their doctrine
    - 3. To designate a day
    - 4. To describe their organization
  - B. Man-made names are condemned in Scripture (1 Corinthians 1:10-17).
  - C. Man-made names cause division (cf. John 17).
  - D. Man-made names substitute the name of Jesus (cf. Acts 4:12).
  - E. Man-made names create confusion and unbelief (cf. 1 Corinthians 14:33).
  - F. Man-made names cause souls to be lost.
- II. No Exclusive Name Is Given in Scripture
- A. The Bible gives several different designations that are applied to the church.

1.	<b>The church</b>	Matthew 18:17; Acts 2:47
2.	<b>The church in (<i>location</i>)</b>	Acts 11:22; 13:1; Rom. 16:1; 1 Cor. 16:1
3.	<b>The church of God</b>	Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 1:2; 10:32; 11:16, 22
4.	<b>The churches of Christ</b>	Romans 16:16
5.	<b>The church of the living God</b>	1 Timothy 3:15
6.	<b>The house of God</b>	1 Timothy 3:15
7.	<b>The church of the firstborn</b>	Hebrews 12:23
8.	<b>The body</b>	Ephesians 5:23
9.	<b>The body of Christ</b>	1 Corinthians 12:27; Eph. 4:12
10.	<b>The kingdom</b>	Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 1:9
11.	<b>The kingdom of God</b>	Acts 8:12; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23, 31
12.	<b>The kingdom of God's Son</b>	Colossians 1:13
13.	<b>God's husbandry (farm, field)</b>	1 Corinthians 3:9
14.	<b>God's building</b>	1 Corinthians 3:9
15.	<b>The flock</b>	1 Peter 5:3
  - B. However, each of these names gives honor to God and Jesus – not to man.
- III. The Church Should Wear the Name of Jesus
- A. Jesus built the church (Matthew 16:18).
  - B. Jesus purchased (Acts 20:28).
  - C. Jesus saves it (Ephesians 5:23).
  - D. Jesus guides it (Colossians 1:18).
  - E. Thus, the name “church of Christ” is both honorable and scriptural (Rom. 16:16).
- IV. Members of the Church Wear the Name of Jesus
- A. God promised a new name (Isaiah 62:2).
  - B. The name “Christian” was given by God in Antioch (Acts 11:26; cf. 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16).
  - C. True disciples are Christians only!