



HOUSE to HOUSE  
HEART to HEART

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# House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 1



## IS **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP** ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION?

*Allen Webster*

**Church membership** has fallen on hard times.

Fewer people are members today than in previous generations. Nonetheless, God has not lost interest in the church. That is where He waits to bless people with all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).

The Bible teaches that church membership is essential. It does not teach that membership in any denomination is essential or even acceptable. Before you dismiss this article as dogmatic or think its author should be marginalized, ostracized, dismissed, or pitied, consider a few thoughts.

### **SALVATION—GOD’S GIFT ON GOD’S TERMS**

People think that since there are good people who do not belong to any church, no church is necessary. The question is, “Does morality equal salvation?” Being good does not save anyone—in the church or out. Cornelius had high morals but needed Christ to be saved (Acts 10:1–48).

Man’s opinions will not matter when God hands out destinies (Matthew 25:31–33; John 12:48; cf. 2 Kings 5:11). Human reason runs counter to divine wisdom. The Lord said, “My thoughts are not your thoughts . . . as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8–9).

Only God can save (Isaiah 59:1–2; Jeremiah 10:23; John 14:6). He gave His Word so we can know about His church, and He gave His church so that we can know about His Word (Ephesians 3:10). The Bible is His map to heaven (John 14:2; 2 Timothy 3:16–17).

### **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP— GOD’S PREROGATIVE**

People speak of joining the church, but this is not how church membership works. A student cannot say, “I think I will join the National Honor Society.” A baseball player cannot say, “I am joining the all-star team this year.” One must qualify and be invited.

A sinner cannot join the church. God adds its members: “The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). Only He decides membership (Acts 4:12; Colossians 1:18). No Bible congregation—not even the apostles—voted on candidates for membership.

Someone might say, “Join the church” just means to pick a church in your area.” It is true Christians must find a congregation of God’s people with which to worship and work. Becoming a member of a local denomination is not the same as being a member of Christ’s church.

Church rolls will not be used at judgment to determine entrance into heaven. Jesus will consult the Lamb’s Book of Life (Revelation 20:12). Many on church rolls will be surprised to find they were not in His book (Matthew 7:23).

### CHRIST MEMBERSHIP— CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If one can be saved out of the church, he can be saved out of Christ, but one must be in Christ to be saved (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). To be in Christ is to be in His body (Ephesians 1:22–23), and to be in His body is to be in the church (1 Corinthians 12:13; 2 Timothy 2:10). One must be in the church to be in Christ (Ephesians 5:23–27) and it is impossible to be in Christ without being in the church.

Since being in Christ is identical to being in the church, no one can be saved outside of Christ’s church. The church is not the Savior, but Christ is its Savior (Ephesians 5:23).

Peter’s sermon on the church’s inauguration day (Acts 2) shows that salvation and church membership are simultaneous events.



- Peter convinced many that they had killed God’s Son, whom God raised (2:22–36).
- They desired forgiveness and salvation, asking, “What shall we do?” (2:37).
- Peter answered, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 2:38).
- Those who gladly received his word were baptized, and “that day about three thousand souls were added to them” (2:41). Subsequently, “the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (2:47).

Thus the church was where God put every person He saved. The world is under condemnation (John 12:31; 1 John 5:19), so He transfers a saved person from there to the kingdom of His Son (Colossians 1:13), a place of no condemnation (Romans 8:1). Both remission and membership occur at a penitent believer’s baptism. God adds His new child’s name to the Book of Life at his new birth (John 3:3, 5; Philippians 4:3).

Follow this through logically. If God adds all those He saves to His Son’s church, then all Christians are church members, and there are no saved people outside the church since only God saves (John 3:16; 2 Timothy 2:10).

By definition, the church is the saved (Ephesians 5:23, 25). The church does not save us; the church is the saved. Membership in the church is not the means of salvation; it is the result of salvation. The church is not our Savior; Christ is, but Christ saves only the church.

### ALL GOD’S EGGS IN ONE BASKET

All spiritual blessings are in “heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:3; cf. 1:20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12). Where is that? Heavenly places are “in Christ,” the equivalent to being in His body, the church (1:22–23; 5:23–27; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27). What spiritual blessings are found in the church?

1. No condemnation (Romans 8:1).
2. Sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:2).
3. Being made new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17).
4. Redemption (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13–14).
5. Forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13–14).

6. Inheritance (Ephesians 1:11).
7. Providential care (Ephesians 1:19; Hebrews 13:5–6), including material blessings.
8. Reconciliation (Ephesians 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:19).
9. Access to God (Ephesians 2:18) and His temple (2:21; 1 Corinthians 3:16). The church is a dwelling place of God (Ephesians 2:22). He dwells in Christians (4:6; 3:17).
10. All of God’s promises (Ephesians 3:6; 2 Corinthians 1:20).
11. Indwelling of Christ (Ephesians 3:17; Galatians 4:19).
12. Indwelling of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18–21; cf. Colossians 1:27; 3:16–17).
13. Names enrolled in heaven (Philippians 3:20).
14. Salvation (Ephesians 5:23; 2 Timothy 2:10).
15. Treasures (Colossians 2:2–3).
16. Completeness (Colossians 2:10).
17. Spiritual life (1 John 5:11–12).

Spiritual blessings are unavailable in the world. Those outside of Christ are dead in sins (Ephesians 2:1, 5), without hope, and without God (2:12). Those in the church (2:12–22) are made alive in Christ (2:5) and reconciled to God (2:16). People cannot be saved without these blessings, so they must get to where the blessings are.

### GOD’S SWISS ARMY KNIFE

The church is the consummation of God’s eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:11). It is the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 1:23). A careful look at the New Testament shows the church everywhere.

As to government, the church is a kingdom. Christ was born to be a king (John 18:37); he was crowned as King (Acts 2:33, 36; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15). Thus His church is called the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 3:2; 7:21). The kingdom is spiritual—not of this world (John 18:36). If one can be saved out of the church, then he can be saved out of the kingdom (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:24).

As to organization, the church is a body (Romans 12:4–5; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27). Christ is the Savior of the body (Ephesians 5:22–27)—and of only those in the body. He gave His blood for it, so the church equals the value of Christ’s life

(Acts 20:28). (An item is of equal value to its purchase price.) Was that blood paid for an unessential entity?

Membership in the body is vital because access to Christ's blood is in the body. A cleansed sinner is put in His blood-bought body (Acts 20:28) where the blood keeps him clean as he "walks in the light" (1 John 1:6–10). Salvation is only through blood (Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7; 5:25–27; Hebrews 9:22). Life is in the blood (cf. Deuteronomy 12:23).

In relation to the world, the church is the called out. There are two spiritual kingdoms: Satan's world and Christ's church (Matthew 16:18–19). The church (*ekklesia*, *ek*, out; *kaleo*, to call) refers to those called from the former into the latter (Colossians 1:13). If people can be saved out of the church, then they can be saved in the world, but the world is lost (1 John 5:19).

As to family, the church is God's family and Christ's bride. God is a Father (Matthew 6:9); saints are His children (Romans 8:14–16; Galatians 4:6–7); the church is His household (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 3:6). Christ is preparing the church for her wedding day when she will be presented as His glorious bride—free from sin, holy, and blameless (Ephesians 5:27; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).

### OUT OF THE SHADOWS, INTO THE LIGHT

Old Testament institutions, events, and characters were recorded for our learning (Romans 15:4). They served as "a shadow of the good things to come" (Hebrews 10:1). In them, God often placed salvation in a location. Noah's family could only be saved in the ark (Genesis 6). Rahab had to remain in the house with the scarlet cord (Joshua 2). A manslayer was only safe in a city of refuge.

The city of refuge is a type of the church of Christ (Deuteronomy 19:5; John 14:6; 15:4–5). Three parallels between them (read Numbers 35 and Joshua 20) include the following:

The church is a sanctuary for the sanctified (Acts 20:32; Romans 15:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:14). Those in Christ are in a sure refuge from condemnation (Romans 8:1; Hebrews 6:18). They are protected by the Lamb's blood (cf. Exodus 12:13; Ephesians 1:7). Satan's claws

cannot snatch God's child from God's hands (John 10:29).

Sinners can escape death only by fleeing to the church. In ancient Israel, a manslayer could not go to his town's civil authorities for help, nor could he rush to the local synagogue. His only hope lay in getting to one of the six cities of refuge before the avenger got to him. Our only hope lies in Christ and His church (Philippians 3:9; Colossians 1:14).

A manslayer had to remain in the city to remain safe (Numbers 35:25–28). Picture the avenger, angry over his loss, lingering outside the refuge city, perhaps sharpening his knife under a tree. He cannot harm his target in the city, but he hopes the manslayer will get bored and visit home. Then the avenger could kill him without reprisal (Numbers 35:27).

One must continue in the church by obedience to the Word, until life ends (Revelation 2:10). Christians are warned about drawing back to perdition (Hebrews 10:39; cf. 6:4–6). "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3; John 15:1–8).

### AN OPEN DOOR POLICY

Christ's invitation to sinners is open 24/7/365 until His return (Matthew 11:28–30). Then the door will be forever shut (Matthew 25:10; Luke 16:26).

All become members of Christ's church the same way—they hear the gospel (Acts 2:22; Romans 1:16; 10:17), believe Jesus to be Christ (Acts 2:37; John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 2:38; 17:30), confess Jesus as Lord (Acts 2:37; Romans 10:9–10), and are baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21). At that point, they are called Christians (Acts 11:26).

The true value of church membership is inestimable. One who gives all he has for it has secured a great bargain (Matthew 13:44–46). Membership pays a hundredfold in this life (John 10:10; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 3:5–7)—and what price could be fixed for the value of heaven?

All things are ready. The gates are always open, but the opportunity may pass at any time. If you are outside safety, flee for refuge in God's church today.



## Wanted—Great Hearts

The Word is solemn;  
therefore, do not trifle.

The task is difficult;  
therefore, do not relax.

The opportunity is brief;  
therefore, do not delay.

The path is narrow;  
therefore, do not wander.

The prize is glorious;  
therefore, do not faint.

—N. Macon Daily Messenger, Harry Goff, editor

*"Ponder the path of your feet"*

PROVERBS 4:26

## God's Plan for Saving Man

**Divine Love:** John 3:16

**God's Grace:** Ephesians 2:8

**Christ's Blood:** Romans 5:9

**Holy Spirit's Word:** Romans 1:16

**Sinner's Faith:** Acts 16:31

**Sinner's Repentance:** Luke 13:3

**Sinner's Confession:** Romans 10:10

**Sinner's Baptism:** Acts 22:16

**Christian's Love:** Matthew 22:37

**Christian's Work:** James 2:24

**Christian's Hope:** Romans 8:24

**Christian's Endurance:** Revelation 2:10

## Chivalry Is Not Dead

In Leeds, on a wet wintry night outside the railway station, a ragged, dirty boy was selling papers. He said: "Buy an evening paper, sir. Please do. Only seven left, and they's all my profit."

The boy's eagerness arrested the man's attention. Looking down he saw a bright, honest, intelligent face. He questioned him, and found his parents were, "drinking at a public house in Briggate."

"Have you no cap to wear this rainy night?"

"Yes," he said, but he had lent it to his sister, who was waiting in a doorway across the road till he sold out. The cap was on her feet because she had "no boots and stockings, so I told her to put her feet inside my cap to keep 'em warm and prevent her ketchin' cold."

Surely this was a self-sacrificing chivalry worthy of the knights of old, for a boy who thus cared for his sister exhibited the true spirit of bravery.

—Told in Dr. Bernardo's "Night and Day."

"Bear one another's burdens."

GALATIANS 6:2



## Irreplaceable

According to Martin L. Gross in his book, *The Psychological Society*, more than 60,000 guidance workers and 7,000 school psychologists work in our American public education system. Many of them function as substitute parents. Many students need counseling, but no professional worker can take the place of a loving, faithful father or mother.

"Children are a heritage of the Lord."

PSALM 127:3

For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com).



## What Is a Family?

Warmth when the world is cold. Safety when the world is hostile. A place of love in a world of hate. A place of light in the midst of darkness.

A family is many things, including the following:

It is love around the table or in front of the fireplace. It is devotion sitting on a pew together.

A family is a cheering section when victory is won and a place of understanding and starting again when a defeat must be endured.

It is a private organization—only bona fide members are allowed in. It is held together with the glue of love and the cement of mutual respect.

The family is a shelter from the storm, a safe port when the waves of life become

too overpowering. No person is ever alone if he is a member of a family.

A family is the knowing smile of a mother, the robust laughter of a father, the giggle of a sister, the shout of a brother. They may taunt one another; they may fight, fuss, and bicker among themselves, but when trouble threatens from outside forces, instantly the ranks close and the troops unite against the common foe.

Most of all, a family is a group of human beings working together to build something beautiful and lasting.

A family is a colony of heavenly bliss right here on earth.

Now relate all of this to Paul's statement that the church is "the house of God" (1 Timothy 3:15). —Richard Rogers

## Just for Fun Word Search

The

# Beattitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

J Z T T E M C U X L A U Y P  
 P E A C E E J J F R X Y K I  
 I C J M F E S Q M E F Z D E  
 U K M P A K V J L J K A T O  
 P E X O T H I F Z O L Q R L  
 J E D O A M A B E I P B I T  
 S T M R X O B B B C C N G G  
 J P U R E U L P F E N S H C  
 W E G W K R S Q N P R I T L  
 I C T B X N R X B U N U E G  
 I C G W V I W U P D H M O T  
 M E R C I F U L E D D Z U L  
 P E R S E C U T E D B B S M  
 D G L J A M M B L E S S E D

Blessed are the **poor** in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the **meek**, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for **righteousness**, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the **pure** in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are **persecuted** for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Blessed** are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **Rejoice** and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

# Am I Saved or Lost?



That is surely life's most momentous question. To be lost in the darkness of the night on unfamiliar streets in a strange city, in a storm adrift at sea, or in a small plane in deep fog and without instruments are terrifying experiences.

To be lost in sin and under eternal condemnation through endless ages is immeasurably worse.

How may salvation be obtained? Unregenerate man cannot save himself. If he is saved at all, God must do it (John 3:16; Romans 5:8–11; 1 Timothy 1:15).

On the other hand, there is a sense in which he must save himself (Matthew 7:21; Acts 2:40; 1 John 2:4). With so many Bible affirmations of human responsibility, it is strange that some teach that there is nothing one does, or can do, in achieving acceptance before God.

To refuse conditions God made precedent to salvation is as fatal as attempting to do what only God can do in saving us.

The **principle** of salvation is grace—God's unmerited favor. Man's guilt has

been irrefutably established (John 3:18). It is therefore impossible to ask for annulment on grounds the sentence is incompatible with evidence. It is impossible to argue for mitigation of sentence alleging that the sentence is too severe; the Judge can only do right (Genesis 18:26). A plea of merit based on moral worth is unavailing. Salvation can neither be earned nor purchased through good works.

The  **motive**  of salvation is immeasurable love: "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The **procuring cause** of salvation is the blood shed at Calvary, without which there would be no forgiveness (Hebrews 10:1–4). Here alone is the cleansing fountain, the precious laver where the obedient are made clean from all sin.

The **agent** of redemption is the Holy Spirit whose revelation in Scripture makes known our guilt and the means by which to be cleansed (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:8–13; 2 Timothy 3:16–17).

The **power** by which salvation comes is the gospel (Romans 1:16). No instance exists of any being saved in the Christian age (Acts 2:1–47) independent of the gospel (Mark 16:15; 1 Corinthians 1:21). It must be heard, believed, and obeyed.

The **place** of salvation is in the church (Ephesians 3:21). God has always designated a place where His blessings are available. Salvation from the flood was in the ark (1 Peter 3:20); deliverance from the plague was only within sight of the brazen serpent (Numbers 21:4–9); deliverance from the Death Angel was only behind blood-sprinkled doors (Exodus 12:21–28).

Salvation is only in the body of Christ—the church (Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 1:19–23). Here alone is divine deliverance from the guilt, power, and presence of sin. To the church—the one about which we read in the Bible—the Lord adds all who submit to His will (Acts 2:47).

Saved or lost? Consider carefully.

—Guy N. Woods

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## Bible Quiz

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Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark "Types & Antitypes David and Joseph as Types of Christ" as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

### Answers to Previous Quizzes

**V. 26:11** Places Jesus Visited: 1. Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1); 2. Egypt (Matthew 2:14–15); 3. Nazareth (Matthew 2:23); 4. In the temple (Luke 2:42–49) 5. Jordan (Mark 1:9); 6. In the wilderness (Luke 4:1–2); 7. Cana in Galilee (John 2:11); 8. Sychar in Samaria (John 4:5–7); 9. Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:13–18); 10. Bethsaida (Mark 8:22–26); 11. The Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1–9); 12. To the Pool of Siloam (John 9:7); 13. Nain (Luke 7:11–17); 14. A deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida (Luke 9:10–17); 15. Jericho (Mark 10:46–52); 16. Bethany (John 11:1, 43); 17. Place of a Skull or Golgotha (John 19:17–18); 18. Bethany (Luke 24:50–51).

**V. 26:12** Starts With the Letter "U": 1. Ungodly (Psalm 1:1); 2. Unbelief (Mark 16:14); 3. Uncircumcised (Acts 11:3); 4. Unclean (Acts 10:28); 5. Undeclared (Hebrews 7:26); 6. Understanding (Philippians 4:7); 7. Unity (Ephesians 4:3); 8. Unjust (Luke 16:10); 9. Unknown (Acts 17:23); 10. Unleavened (Luke 22:1); 11. Unrighteous (1 Corinthians 6:9); 12. Unspeakable (2 Corinthians 9:15 κλυ); 13. Upharsin (Daniel 5:25); 14. Upper (Mark 14:14–16); 15. Upright (Job 1:1) 16. Ur (Genesis 15:7); 17. Uriah (2 Samuel 11:1–27); 18. Usurp (1 Timothy 2:2 κλυ); 19. Uz (Job 1:1); 20. Uzzah (2 Samuel 6:3–11).

## Starts with the Letter L

**Directions:** Questions are taken from the New King James Version. Find answers in the following passages: Genesis 4:23–24; 14:12; 18:12; 29:11, 16–17, 34; Exodus 8:17–18; Numbers 1:47; Lamentations 1:1; Ezekiel 37:3; Daniel 6:16; Luke 1:1; 12:27; 16:24; John 4:10; 11:10–14, 39; 14:6; Acts 1:1; 16:11–15; 1 Corinthians 13:7; 2 Timothy 1:5; Revelation 21:8.

- \_\_\_\_\_ had two daughters who both married Jacob. However, this devious man was able to get Jacob to work 14 years to win them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ told his two wives he had murdered a person and feared he would be more avenged than Cain.
- Daniel was saved from a den of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ within herself when she heard she would have a son.
- The rich man asked Abraham to send \_\_\_\_\_ with water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things.
- "I am the way, the truth, and the \_\_\_\_."
- This book's first verse cries "How lonely sits the city, that was full of people!" \_\_\_\_\_
- What kind of water did Jesus speak of to the Samaritan woman? \_\_\_\_\_
- In a valley of dry bones, God asked Ezekiel, "Can these bones \_\_\_\_\_?"
- Third son of Jacob who founded a tribe of Israel: \_\_\_\_\_
- Abraham's nephew who lived in the wicked city of Sodom: \_\_\_\_\_
- Rachel was beautiful, but her sister, \_\_\_\_\_, had weak eyes.
- "Consider the \_\_\_\_\_, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin."
- \_\_\_\_\_ had been dead for four days when Jesus raised him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ wrote a biography of Jesus and the book of Acts.
- A woman who became a follower of Jesus in Philippi: \_\_\_\_\_
- Timothy's grandmother who had genuine faith: \_\_\_\_\_
- In Revelation, John compares hell to a \_\_\_\_\_ of fire.
- Pharaoh's magicians could not reproduce this itchy plague. \_\_\_\_\_
- Which tribe was excluded in the first census of the Israelites? \_\_\_\_\_

# WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT THE BIBLE

“On that morning, the first rays of a rising sun skipped across the tips of the forested canopy as if to tickle them awake in the anticipation of a day rising. And I will tell you, sitting with God each morning has never ceased to tickle me awake in the exact same way.” —Craig D. Lounsbrough

“It is very difficult indeed for a man or for a boy who knows the Scriptures

ever to get away from it. It follows him like the memory of his mother. It haunts him like an old song. It reminds him like the word of an old and revered teacher. It forms a part of the warp and woof of his life.” —Woodrow Wilson

“While other books inform, and some few reform, this one book transforms.”

—A. T. Pierson

“To say it another way, most books were given for our information—the Bible was given for our transformation” (Romans 12:1–2). —Author Unknown

“The best thing to do with the Bible is to know it in the head, stow it in the heart, sow it in the world, and show it in the life.” —Author Unknown



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## Recommended Resource



The Gospel Broadcasting Network is unique in the world of religious TV—commercial free, and they never ask for money! Sponsored by the churches of Christ, GBN is available on many cable systems, as well as through their smartphone apps, the Roku device, and at [gbntv.org](http://gbntv.org).

## I want to learn more **about the Bible!**

If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer requests or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like:



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An In-Home Bible Study

## New Tracts!

- The Preacher's Craft
- How to Beat the Bottle
- Four Ways to Stay Ready for Judgment
- If I Am Lifted Up



### More subjects:



What Jesus Told Me to Tell You



Where Do We Go When We Die?



What Does It Mean to Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ?



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Things Are Looking Up



Weaknesses of the Almighty God



Your Church Seems to Really Care. Why Is That?

Do not see the topic you need?

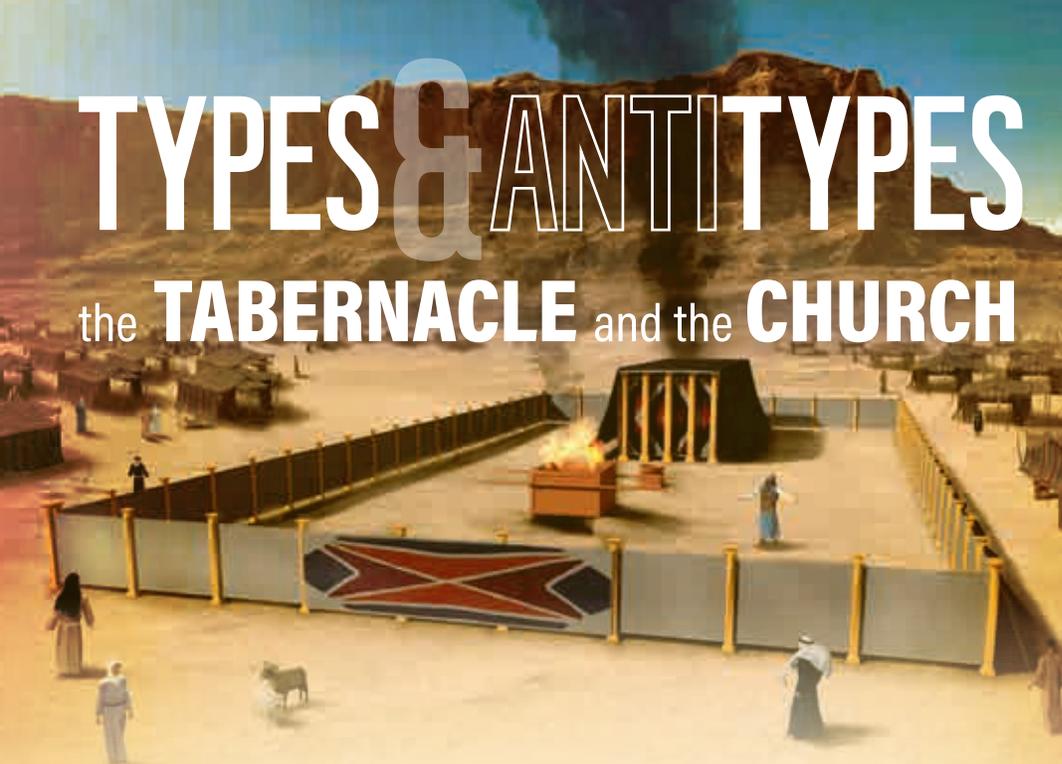
Visit [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com) for more subjects.

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# TYPES & ANTITYPES

## the TABERNACLE and the CHURCH



### 12 Bible Facts about the Church of Christ

1. It was established by Jesus the Christ (Matthew 16:18).
2. It was purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28).
3. It was the culmination of God's eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:8–12).
4. It began in the city of Jerusalem in A.D. 30 (Luke 24:46–49; Acts 1:8; 2:1–4, 47).
5. Its foundation is the deity of Christ (Matthew 16:16–18; 1 Corinthians 3:11).
6. Its head is Christ (Ephesians 1:22–23; Colossians 1:18).
7. It is singular (one of a kind) (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 1:18).
8. It is composed of all who have been saved from sins by obeying the gospel (Acts 2:37–47; 18:8; Romans 6:16–18).
9. Its organization is in harmony with Scripture—autonomous congregations overseen by elders and served by deacons (Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1–14).
10. It wears names/descriptors that honor the One who planned it from all eternity (God) and the One who brought it into existence (Christ), reflecting its divine nature (2 Thessalonians 1:3–4; Romans 16:16; Colossians 1:13–14, 18).
11. Its worship consists only of the acts that the New Testament authorizes, not the traditions and commandments of men (John 4:24; 17:17; Colossians 3:17; Acts 2:42; Matthew 15:7–9).
12. Its law of entrance is that set forth in the New Testament, consisting of what a responsible person must do to be saved from sin (Matthew 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–16; Acts 2:37–41, 47; Colossians 1:13).

—Hugh Fulford

*“The churches of Christ greet you.”*

ROMANS 16:16

God is amazing. No one else could put the shadow of future things into the past. Types and antitypes are examples of God's prefigures of the future. Types are the shadow in the Old Testament of things that were to come (antitypes) in the New Testament.

An example of this type/antitype relationship can be found in comparing the tabernacle to the church of Christ.



### THE TABERNACLE

TYPE

Moses was given the pattern for the tabernacle (HEBREWS 8:5).

Moses was the lawgiver for the tabernacle (DEUTERONOMY 31:9).

Priests for the tabernacle were to come only from the tribe of Levi (NUMBERS 3:6).

The altar of burnt offering was where offerings were made and burned for the sins of the priests and people (EXODUS 40:29; LEVITICUS 9:7).

The laver of water was placed between the tabernacle and the altar where the priest could wash before entering the tabernacle (EXODUS 30:18–21).

The candlestick gave light in the tabernacle (NUMBERS 8:2–4).

The table of showbread was for the priests to eat and was replaced each Sabbath day (EXODUS 25:30).

The altar of incense is where priests offered burned incense (EXODUS 30:1, 7–8).

### THE CHURCH

ANTITYPE

Jesus gave a pattern for the church (HEBREWS 8:1–5).

Jesus is the lawgiver of a better covenant with better promises (HEBREWS 8:6).

All Christians are priests (1 PETER 2:5, 9).

The sins of Christians are covered by the offering of Christ (GALATIANS 1:4; EPHESIANS 5:25).

Sinners must be washed in the blood of Christ before entering the church (ACTS 22:16; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:11; ROMANS 6:3; 1 PETER 3:21).

The Word of God gives light for the church (2 PETER 1:19; 2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17).

Christians eat at the Lord's table each first day of the week (1 CORINTHIANS 11:20–29; ACTS 20:7).

The prayers of Christians take the place of incense (REVELATION 5:8; 8:4).



## 16 Tips to Live Happily

1. Learn to laugh with others, and at yourself (Proverbs 17:22).
2. Spend time with older people; learn from their wisdom (Proverbs 19:20).
3. Enjoy the innocence and purity of children (Matthew 18:1–6).
4. Work with all your might (Ecclesiastes 9:10).
5. Live life like you will live forever, because you will (Ecclesiastes 3:11).
6. Plan as though you will die tomorrow, because you might (James 4:14).
7. Say something encouraging to someone; be specific and genuine (Hebrews 3:13).
8. Give something away with no strings attached (2 Corinthians 9:7).
9. Help someone in need; expect nothing in return (Matthew 25:35–40).
10. Forgive others as many times as needed (Matthew 18:21–22).
11. Ask for forgiveness; a clean conscience makes for a soft pillow (1 John 1:9).
12. Pray often and be specific (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
13. Count your blessings (you might lose count) (Ephesians 1:3).
14. Love God, love your neighbors, and love yourself (Matthew 22:37–39).
15. Bow to the Lord—better now than later (Philippians 2:10).
16. Obey God's commands (Matthew 7:21–27). —Brett Petrillo, Denver, Colorado



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# ASK A BIBLE QUESTION

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