





**Mistaken concepts *can* result in disastrous and evil consequences!**

**So with the word “CHURCH” ...**

Chrstn ≠ “chr” ...

# ~~ONE CHRISTIAN IS A “CHURCH”~~

- “Where a Christian is, the church is.”
- “What a Christian does, the church does.”

## “Church” = a collective noun

“noun that denotes a collection of personS or thingS regarded as a unit.” *AHD*. They are grouped *on the basis of something they have in common ...*

Just as ...

One SHEEP is not a FLOCK

One COW is not a HERD

One LINK is not a CHAIN

So... **One CHRISTIAN is not a CHURCH!**

4 uses ...

# “CHURCH”

- **“Universal”** - personS saved in Christ **Mt 16:18; Ac 2:41...47; Heb 12:23**
- **“District”** - personS who are saved in Christ living in a particular area. **Ac 9:31** “the **church** throughout all Judea & Galilee & Samaria” (NASB)
- **“Local”** - personS who work and worship together in a locality - “team” **1Co 1:2; Php 1:27**
- **“Assembled”** (**1Co 14:23,26**) - personS in a physical assembly **1Co 14:19,28,33,34,35**

***NEVER of ONE Christian***

# Confusion & error... *(So what...?)*

## ❖ **Confuses & undermines *the peculiar & God-given work of a church “of Christ”*** 1Tim 3:15-16

“What individual Christian does the church does” ...

### General benevolence

- Gainful employment? 1Th 4:11-12
- Involvement in political process? Rom 13:1f
- Social act. - 1Co 11:34 (*controverts* this concept! cmpr v18)
- Camping, fishing, traveling – “church” worship

Entertainment, business ventures, secular schools, etc.

> *Priorities, energies, resources diverted from its true purpose!* <

## ❖ **Unjust judgment of “church”**

- “Failure in duty to the poor...country...society...”
- “That church...” based on *one* member (Fam.? Team? Bus.?)

“ch” = coll...

# ~~“CHURCH” IS A COLLECTIVE OF CHURCHES~~

- “**The ‘CHURCH’** (including the Method., Bap., R. C., and other denom.) proclaims Christ & responds to the charitable & civic needs of the community.”
- “Congregations of **the CHURCH of Christ**”
- “**CHURCH of Christ Church**”

“Church” NOT collec. of churches / denominations

“Church” is a collective of **PEOPLE, INDIVIDUALS**

- **Ac 2:38,41,47** saved PEOPLE
- **Ac 9:31** (NASB) saved PEOPLE in a “district”
- **1Co 1:2** saved PEOPLE working tog. In a locality
- **1Co 14:26** PEOPLE assembled for edification

# Confusion & error... (*So what...?*)

- **Relationship with God** - “I’m OK; I’m believe in and support ‘the Church.’” “Church”??
- **Doctrine** - “CofC” doctrine, belief (compare pt. I) - “truth” = denominational doctrine!
- **Organization** - Miss. Soc.; Sponsor. church; Denominational org. ~~local autonomy~~ ... *Rom. Cath.!*

C. impor., not chur...

# ~~PREACH CHRIST, NOT THE CHURCH~~

**“What’s important is Christ. Our time, attention, and lessons should focus on Christ, not the church.”**

**To preach Christ *IS* to preach about His **church**  
**Mt 16:16...18; Eph 1:22-23; 3:10-11; 5:23****

**To preach Christ *IS* to preach about His churches  
**Ac 11:21...26; 1Co 1:1-2; Php 1:1...27****

**To preach Christ *IS* to preach about **their assemblies**  
**1Co 11:17,20; 14:23,37—2Co 12:19; Col 3:16****

**To fail to teach about the church is to fail to teach “the whole purpose (counsel, NKJV) of God”! **Ac 20:27****



***Christ built His “church”***

**Mt 16:18**

***His apostles established and set  
the order for His “churches”***

**1Co 14:37**

***Respect for Him demands we  
follow in word & deed the Divine  
plan the Holy Spirit revealed***

