

New Testament Christianity

Entrance Into The Church

- Introduction:
1. The reason this discussion is so relevant is that Jesus promised to build his church (Matthew 16:18), and to save those who were a part of it (Ephesians 5:25).
 2. However, we have examined that the present state of religion has little resemblance to the church we read about in the Bible. In other words, there are many counterfeits.
 3. Thus, we need to open our Bibles and seek to restore New Testament Christianity and the New Testament church.
 4. Thus far, we have seen that the church was established on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.
 - a. Any church that doesn't have its beginning in Acts 2 is not the church Jesus built.
 - b. Ills. of Granny's bread.
 5. In this lesson, we want to discuss the terms of entrance into the church we read about in the Bible.
 3. Personally, I think this is one of the most difficult points to grasp.

I. Are There Terms of Entrance Into The New Testament Church?

- A. Every organization has terms of entrance, otherwise, there would be no way to distinguish between who is and who isn't a member.
- B. For example, consider marriage.
 1. If two people love each other, live with each other, have sexual relations with each other, and have children together, does that mean they are married?
 2. Can two people do all these things, which are things married people do, but still not be married.
- C. Likewise, consider the church.
 1. If people go to church, read the Bible, live moral lives, and claim allegiance to Jesus, does this mean they are Christians?
 2. No, but it is at this point, emotions often override Scripture.
 3. This tugs at our hearts.
 4. Quotation from the Lunenburg Letter.

II. What Are the Terms of Entrance Into the New Testament Church?

- A. Let's go to Acts, chapter two to get an answer.
- B. Remember, this was the beginning of the church.
- C. If we do what they did, we'll be what they were.
- D. (Acts 2:14-47).
 1. Peter preached that Jesus was clearly a man of God (Acts 2:22).

2. However, they put him to death (Acts 2:23).
 3. In spite of this, God raised him up, and the one he raised up was the Christ (Acts 2:24,31,36).
 4. Their response was one of "faith" (Acts 2:37).
 5. These believers were then told to:
 - a. Repent (Acts 2:38).
 - b. Be Baptized (Acts 2:38).
 6. Those who gladly received what Peter preached, did just that (Acts 2:41).
 7. And they were thus added to the church (Acts 2:41,47).
- E. What is the nature of baptism?
1. Who is to be baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:37)?
 2. What is the mode of baptism (Romans 6:3-4; Acts 8:36-38)?
 3. What is the purpose of baptism (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21)?