

A PLEA FOR CHRIST

- Introduction:
1. At times charges have been leveled against the Lord's church, accusing her of being smug and self righteous.
 - a. Rather than pleading with people to come to the cross, we have pleaded for them to come to us.
 2. However, such an accusation is unfounded.
 - a. (I John 1:1-3).
 - b. (I Corinthians 11:1).
 3. As long as we remain at the foot of the cross, we can rightfully call people unto ourselves.
 4. The question for resolution is: "**Are we standing at the foot of the cross?**"
 5. Let us then examine if our pleas are Christ centered.

I. WE PLEAD FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST

- A. (Philippians 2:9) His name is above every name.
- B. (Acts 4:12) There is no other name given whereby we must be saved.
- C. (Acts 11:26) The disciples were called Christians.
- D. (I Corinthians 1:10-13) There is division in other names.

II. WE PLEAD FOR THE PERSON OF CHRIST

- A. (John 1:1,14) Jesus was the "**God-Man**".
- B. (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4) He was born of a virgin.
- C. (Matthew 1:23; Colossians 2:9) He was fully God.
- D. (Hebrews 4:15; Luke 19:10) He was fully human.

III. WE PLEAD FOR THE WORDS OF CHRIST

- A. (Mark 13:31) The words of Christ will not pass away.
- B. (Psalms 119:89) God's word is settled in Heaven.
- C. (John 12:46) Christ's words will judge us.
- D. (Psalms 119:105) God's word provides us direction.
- E. (II Timothy 3:16-17) God's word is sufficient.

IV. WE PLEAD FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

- A. (Matthew 16:18) Jesus promised to build His church.
- B. (Acts 2:1-47) The church is established.
- C. Facts about the church for which we plead.
 1. Terms of entrance (Acts 2:36-38).
 2. Form of government (Philippians 1:1).
 3. Worship (John 4:24).
 4. Extent of fellowship (I John 1:7).
 5. Rule of conduct (II Timothy 3:16-17).

V. WE PLEAD FOR UNITY IN CHRIST

- A. (John 17:20-21) Jesus prayed that His disciples might be one.
- B. (Ephesians 4:3) We are to work for unity.

- Conclusion:
1. After examining that for which we are pleading, you decide if we are standing at the foot of the cross.
 2. I am convinced that we can rightfully call people unto ourselves, and in so doing also be calling them to Christ.
 - a. Not because of our own power to save.
 - b. But because of our location.
 3. Before we can all be united in Christ, we must first be united in our pleas for the *Name, Person, Words, and Church* of Christ.