

IDENTIFYING THE LORD'S CHURCH

There are many religious organizations in our world today. Yet we read about one church in the New Testament. The question is, Can we find it? To find the church that Jesus built, we must look for the Biblical identification marks that characterize the Lord's Church. Notice the following marks:

1. IT MUST BE IN PROPHECY

The Lord's church was prophesied: it was in the plan of God spoken aforetime by the prophets (Isaiah 2:2-3; Daniel 2:44-45; Ephesians 3:10-11; Mark 9:1).

2. IT MUST BE BUILT ON CHRIST

Jesus Christ promised to build His church (Matthew 16:18-19), and He is the Builder, Owner, Purchaser, and the church's one foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11).

3. IT MUST HAVE CHRIST AS ONLY HEAD

Jesus Christ is the Head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18). The church must be subject to Christ as its Head (Ephesians 5:22).

4. IT MUST BE SCRIPTURALLY ORGANIZED

Christ's plan includes elders who lead and deacons who serve (1 Timothy 3:1-7), preachers, teachers, and all members serving (1 Corinthians 12:12-18).

5. IT MUST WORSHIP IN SPIRIT & TRUTH

This is how Jesus said the Father desired to be worshipped (John 4:23-24). True worship involves following the New Testament pattern (Acts 2:42).

6. IT MUST WEAR THE NAME OF CHRIST

The church wears Christ's name (Romans 16:16), a name exalted (Philippians 2:9-11), authoritative (Colossians 3:17), and saving (Acts 4:12).

7. IT MUST TEACH the WAY OF SALVATION

God's way of salvation includes hearing (John 6:45), faith (Hebrews 11:6), repentance (Acts 3:19), confession (Romans 10:10), & baptism (Mark 16:16).

8. IT MUST BELIEVE ALL THE BIBLE

All scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It must be believed, preached, taught, and practiced (2 Timothy 4:2; James 1:18).

-Chart by John M. Brown