

Upon the Rock Bible Study Series
The Body of Christ

Matthew 7:24-27

To have a solid foundation we must _____ and _____.

Christ and The Church

Christ is:

_____ of the church.

(Matthew 16:18)

_____ of the church.

(Acts 20:28)

_____ of the church.

(Ephesians 1:22,23)

Colossians 1:18

The body (of Christ) is the _____.

How many bodies does Christ have?

Romans 12:4,5 _____

1 Corinthians 12:12,13 _____

Ephesians 4:4 _____

1 Corinthians 12:13

We are all _____ into one body.

1 Corinthians 12:27

If the body is the church, then the body of Christ is also the _____ of Christ.

Religious Unity

John 17:20-23

Jesus prayed that all his people may be _____.

_____. Is religious division a stumbling block to the faith of many people? _____ Does God approve of religious division? _____.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

Christians should be perfectly united or made complete in the same _____ and the same _____.

1 Corinthians 14:33

God is not a God of _____ but of peace.

The Cause of Religious Division

Matthew 7:15-23

Beware of _____ who come in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. Will all who say, "Lord, Lord," be saved? _____ He who _____ the will of my Father will enter heaven. Some were rejected because they practiced _____.

Matthew 15:1-14

The disciples transgressed the tradition of the elders, but the Pharisees transgressed the _____ for the sake of tradition. Isaiah said that these people honor Me with their _____ but their _____ are far from me. Their worship is _____ because they teach the _____ of men. Every plant not planted by the Father shall be _____. Can a person be blind to the truth? _____.

Galatians 1:6-9

How many gospels are there? _____ If one teaches a different gospel, he will be _____.

2 John 9-11

To have both the Father and the Son, one must _____ in the teaching of Christ. Does it please God to assist, bless, or support some who does not teach the doctrine of Christ? _____.

John 8:31,32

If you _____ in My word, then you are _____ my disciples, and you will know the _____, and the truth will make you _____.

The Prophecy of the Falling Away

Acts 20:28-30

Savage wolves will destroy the flock by _____ to draw away the disciples after them.

1 Timothy 4:1-3

Some will fall away by paying attention to (or following) _____ and _____.

2 Tim. 4:1-5

The time will come when men will not put up with sound _____. People will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to _____.

2 Peter 2:1-3

False teachers will secretly introduce _____.

The Falling Away of the New Testament Church: A Brief Historical Study

I. The Church As It Was Established

Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:1-6.

II. The Falling Away

Unscriptural doctrines and practices began to be introduced after the death of the apostles:

Holy water (113 A.D.);
Lent (140 A.D.);
Penance (157 A.D.);
Infant baptism (185 A.D.);
Intercession of the saints (240 A.D.);
Sprinkling for baptism (250 A.D.);
sacrifice of Mass (370 A.D.);
celibacy of priests (425 A.D.);
purgatory (450 A.D.);
confession to priests (500 A.D.);
Pope (Boniface III, 606 A.D.);
instrumental music in worship (670 A.D.).

The church continued to depart from the faith until it did not even resemble the church that Christ built. It was different in doctrine, worship, organization and in mission.

The Reformation was a step in the right direction. The reformers rebelled against many of the corruptions of Rome. They rejected many of the unscriptural practices of the apostate church; but they were inconsistent in holding on to other things which were just as unscriptural, e.g. infant baptism, sprinkling, and instrumental music.

Today there are more than 1000 denominations, which create division and confusion in the minds of men. More denominations are not needed. We have enough!

III. The Restoration of the New Testament Church

If the church of Christ today is simply another denomination, it has no reason or right to exist. These men wanted to restore the church of Christ in its simplicity and purity as it was in the first century. This is still our plea today: James O'Kelly (1793 A.D.) a Methodist preacher; Elias Smith (1800 A.D.) a Baptist preacher; Barton W. Stone (1804 A.D.), a Presbyterian preacher; Thomas and Alexander Campbell (1830 A.D.) Presbyterian preachers.

These men said, "Let us cast aside all denominational names, creeds, doctrines and practices which divide the Christian world and just wear the name 'Christian' and be only members of the New Testament church." Their plea was, "Where the Scriptures speak we speak; where they are silent we are silent." They began to sow the seed of the Kingdom (Luke 8:11) which produced only Christians, members of the church of Christ, as it had done more than 1900 years earlier.

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*Lesson Three
The Body of Christ*



"And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

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