

Bible Answers To Bible Questions

by Wayne Goff

The purpose for this column is to present to our readers an honest, Bible based answer to whatever question you might have to ask. If you would like to ask a question, simply write down your question so that it can be easily read, then send it to **BIBLE QUESTIONS**, in care of Wayne Goff, Box 353, Yellville, Arkansas 72687. Your question will appear in this column as soon as possible, and if you prefer, your name will not be used. If you would like this writer to also write to you personally about your question, simply indicate it in your letter. This column is not presented to embarrass anyone, to create harmful feelings, nor to present damaging information about denominations. It is written in the best interest of the honest reader who is seeking an answer to a Bible question. Perhaps there will be controversial matters appearing from time to time, but it is hoped that such can be discussed with patience, forthrightness, and sincerity on the part of all involved. Certainly, there is far too much dishonesty in the world today, and there is no room for it here. Therefore, with the hopes of much and lasting good to be done, this article begins our column.

It has been said that the Church of Christ is the group of people who think they are the only ones going to heaven. Such a statement I have heard personally, and it seemed only to present prejudice in the hearts and minds of those to whom it was spoken. Nevertheless, since it has been stated, it needs to be explained. Most likely, such an accusation has stemmed from the fact that members of the church of Christ have said that one could not be saved unless he were a member of the one, true church. Certainly, the Bible does not teach that you can believe anything you want, then live a good moral life, and all will go to heaven after awhile. The Bible does say that there is one body (Ephesians 4:4), and that the body is the church (Ephesians 1:22,23). Therefore, there can be only one church and not many denominations of different beliefs, organizations, and creeds. The idea that the one church has reference to the universal church, which consists of all the different denominations with their beliefs, is the way in which many people have explained the idea. But the Bible disagrees with these people because it says there is only one faith (Ephesians 4:5), and that Christians are to "**endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace**" (Ephesians 4:3-**emphasis mine**). In a prayer of the Lord to the Father, he asked that "*They all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me*" (John 17:21). The idea of a universal unity in organization while the members all believe *differently* in their own denomination, is completely foreign to the pages of the Bible. Christ died for all people, but he built only one church for them to enter. Paul wrote the church at Corinth, and said, "*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?*" (1 Corinthians 1: 10, 12, 13). God has not intended to have a divided people. Jesus Christ is the head of the body, which is the church (Ephesians 1:22). The church of Christ is one church (or body), with one head (Jesus), all believing the same thing (one faith), striving to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. That is the Biblical picture of the church which belongs to Jesus Christ. Obviously, there are many denominations claiming to be the true church, and some even wear the scriptural name (Church of Christ — Romans 16:16). But to find the true church, one must find the group that is scriptural in name, teaching, and organization. Only that group is infallibly safe, because they are doing what God has said to, and not what man has decided.

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