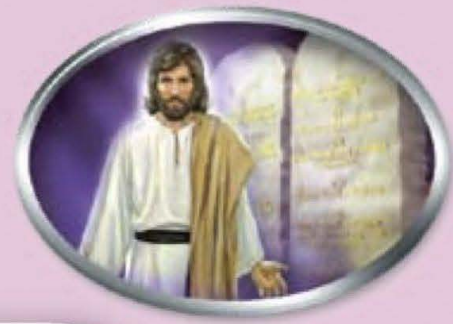


WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS 14 OF THE TRUE CHURCH



FOUNDATION AND BASIS

1. Who founded the Christian church?

2. Who is the foundation of the church?

Matthew 16:16-18

Ephesians 2:20

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

3. Who are the leaders of the church?

4. What is the triple mission of the church?

5. How should the church be governed?

Ephesians 4:11, 12

Matthew 4:23

Acts 6:1-4

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRUE CHURCH

6. What example should the church follow?

7. What is the standard of conduct for the church?

8. What gift with the church possess?

John 13:15

Revelation 12:7

Revelation 19:10

WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Join the true church.
2. Stay faithful and firm.

Acts 2:41

2 Peter 1:10-12

**I believe that Jesus founded the church. I desire to
join it and be faithful to the end**

SIGNATURE

THE FAITH
OF JESUS

► ADDITIONAL STUDY ◀

Christ, the Foundation. Christ is the true foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20). Nobody can put down a different foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11).

The Church and its Leaders. Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22). List of authorities (Ephesians 4:11, 12). Qualifications of ministers (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). Deacons and their qualifications (1 Timothy 3:8-13). The deaconesses (1 Timothy 3:11). Members call each other brothers and sisters (Matthew 23:8, 9).

Rites of the Church. 1) Baptism by immersion (Matthew 3:13-17). 2) Lord's Supper or Communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-29). 3) Foot washing. (John 13:4-17). 4) Placing of hands to ordain ministers or deacons (Acts 6:1-6). 5) Anointing of the sick (James 5:14, 15). 6) Holy matrimony (Matthew 19:4-6).

The Mission of the Church. To be a pillar and bastion of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15). To be pure and holy (Ephesians 5:27). To preach the gospel (Matthew 24:14).

The Christian Church

The church was founded by Jesus. The word church comes from the Greek *ekklesia*, and it means *assembly or congregation*. It is a group of human beings that believe and obey Jesus and his doctrine.

The Great Drama of the Church

During the first century, the church stayed faithful to Jesus' genuine doctrine. However, heresies and serious errors started to come in which the apostles had rebuked (Romans 1:21, 22, 15; 2 Peter 2:1, 2; Titus 1:14; Colossians 2:8). The errors included capital doctrines and they also altered the church's form of government. So much so that "it cast down the truth to the ground" (Daniel 8:12). This unfortunate situation would last 1,260 years (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 12:6, 14; 13:5), in other words, from the year 538 until the year 1798.

The Restoration of the Truth

After that long period of spiritual darkness, the truth would revive gloriously to be preached in the form of the triple message (Revelation 14:6-12).

Characteristics of the True Church

The true church must possess the faith of Jesus (Revelation 14:12). It will respect the commandments of the law of God (Revelation 14:12). It will have the visible manifestation of the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10). It will respect the holy Sabbath of the Lord (Exodus 20:8-11). It will be guided in everything by what God's Holy Word says (2 Timothy 3:16). It will have a dynamic and triple evangelism program (Matthew 4:23). It will announce the imminent judgment (Revelation 14:7). It will preach with power about the second coming of Jesus (Titus 2:13).

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church (SDA)

The SDA church emerged at the moment indicated by prophecy and as a result of a deep study of the Holy Bible. He possesses the four distinctive characteristics of a true church: 1) *Unity* of doctrine, rites and regulations (Ephesians 4:3-6). 2) *Holiness* in the life and conduct of the members (1 Thessalonians 4:2-7). 3) *Universality* (Matthew 24:14). 4) *Apostolicity* (Jude 3).

The SDA church develops its apostolate in the triple phase that our Lord Jesus Christ commanded. Thousands of ministers preach the gospel, aside from radio, television and publications edited by more than 50 publishing houses. The field of education, the church has many universities, 360 high schools and 4,500 elementary schools. In the health field, the church maintains 114 hospitals and sanitariums, several dozen medical launches, mobile clinics and health airplanes.

The authorities of the church are those indicated in the Holy Bible. The church is governed with the council of all its members, just as it was in the time of the apostles. Likewise, the church practices all the rites prescribed by our Lord Jesus Christ and the holy apostles.

The SDA church has restored the eternal truths of the gospel. The Holy Bible, the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and the holy apostles and the law of God, these are the standard of conduct of the church and the believers.

The SDA church is the historic continuation of the permanent people that God has had as proclaimers of the truth. It maintains that the Christian doctrines must be practiced in every aspect of life.