

Identifying Marks of the New Testament Church

- Founded by Jesus Christ.
- Founded on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus Christ in A.D. 33.
- Designations: Church of Christ, Body of Christ, Churches of God, The Church.
- Head: Jesus Christ.
- Founded in Jerusalem.
- Terms of admission: Faith, Repentance, Confession, and Baptism.
- Rule of faith and practice: The New Testament.
- How members are admitted: Added by the Lord upon obedience to the Gospel.
- Member's relationship to Christ: His body.
- Pattern of worship: Singing, Lord's Supper, Prayer, Preaching, Giving of means.
- Organization: Elders as overseers, Deacons special office of servants, members.
- Mission: Preach the Gospel to all creation.
- Work: edification of its members, do good unto all men.
- Characterization of members lives: Put off the old man and put on the new man.

Identifying Marks of Churches NOT the New Testament Church

- Founded by some man or woman.
- Founded years after Pentecost. Most, centuries after.
- Designations: Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Cowboy Church.
- Head: Pope, Synods, boards, hierarchies, one man rule, regional ,national, or worldwide organization.
- Founded in various cities around the globe.
- Terms of admission: Usually faith only post salvation baptism, sprinkled or poured water upon.
- Rule of faith and practice: Creeds, catechisms, confessions of faith, or mere conscience.
- How members are admitted: Join or voted in.
- Member's relationship to Christ: None.
- Pattern of worship: Entertainment, instrumental music, irregular observance of Lord's Supper, preaching, praying, tithing.
- Organization: Various, but hardly ever includes elders.
- Mission: To spread the doctrine of salvation by faith alone.
- Work: Whatever they decide to do.
- Characterization of members lives. Commit every sin from lying to murder and still go to heaven.

Many choose to be a part of a church that fits the latter pattern. But for your soul's sake why not determine that: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

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