

*“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3).*

The overall theme of these lectures is “I KNOW”. And, as the verse above points out, God has supplied us with the knowledge of all things which pertain to spiritual life and godliness. Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). And again, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). From these passages we learn that spiritual truth can be ascertained and that this truth is found in God’s word. Peter penned, “But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel preached unto you” (1 Peter 1:25). To this Paul added, “How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)” (Ephesians 3:3-4). Peter pointed out that the NT is God’s Word and Paul said that they (the apostles) wrote the NT by Divine revelation from God so that you and I could read and understand God’s will for mankind today. Truth can be known and understood through the knowledge of God’s Word.

### **One Body**

The prophets prophesied of one kingdom, “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up “A KINGDOM”, which shall never be destroyed: and “THE KINGDOM” shall not be left to other people, but “IT” shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and “IT” shall stand for ever” (Daniel 2:44 - all emphasis mine, LY). Jesus uses the terms kingdom and church interchangeably. They are the same institution, “...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: ...” (Matthew 16:18-19). Jesus only has

one kingdom, the church!

Our Lord only has one body, just like you and I, which consist of each individual member, “But now are they many members, yet but “ONE BODY” ” (1 Corinthians 12:20 - all emphasis mine, LY). “There is “ONE BODY”, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:4 - all emphasis mine, LY). Furthermore, we are told that this body, through which the Lord functions here on the earth, is the church and that the church is His body, “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:18)). And, “...and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, ...” (Ephesians 1:22-23). There is only one body, the church.

The Lord only has one bride and that bride is referred to as the heavenly Jerusalem, which is another term for the church, “And there came unto me one of the seven angels ... saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God” (Revelation 21:9-10). And, “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, ...” (Hebrews 12:22-23). Christ only has one bride, the church.

Our Lord only has one family, “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,” (Ephesians 3:14-15). The only way one can become a part of that family is by being born of water [baptism - LY] and of the spirit [word of God - LY], “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the

Kingdom of God” (John 3:5). God only has one spiritual family, the church.

### **One Faith**

“There is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:4-6).

We revisit the above passage in order to show that the one church is not a conglomerate of many different faiths (beliefs) agreeing to disagree. Surely, all will agree that there is but one Father and one Lord, Jesus Christ, “As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him” (1 Corinthians 8:4-6). Furthermore, Peter told the Jewish leaders, who inquired through what name he had healed the impotent man, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). The same God, who states that there is only one God and one Savior, Jesus Christ, has said that there is only one church and one system of faith through which mankind must be saved. Since there is only one church, we don’t have a choice in picking the church we want to attend. To say, “Join the church of your choice”, is the equivalent of saying, “Worship the God of your choice”, or “Pick the Savior of your choice”. Since there is only one of each of the above, we have no choice if we want to be saved. We must be a part of the one.

True unity is found in agreement, not in agreeing to disagree, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed” (Amos 3:3). Paul said,

“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3). This is the unity that our Lord prayed for (John 17:20-23). And He and His followers practiced. Jesus only taught the things He received from the Father, “...whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak” (John 12:49-50). The Holy Spirit only taught the things of Jesus, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26). The apostles only wrote and taught what the Spirit told them to teach, (1 Corinthians 2:7-13 and Ephesians 3:3-5). The followers of the apostles only taught what the apostles taught (1 Corinthians 4:17 and 2 Timothy 2:2). We are only to teach what all of the above taught (1 Peter 4:11). And those at Corinth were told, “...that ye all speak the same thing...” (1 Corinthians 1:10). This is Biblical unity.

### **Finding the Church of the Bible**

To find the church of the Bible all one has to do is to compare the teachings of the church where he or she attends with the teachings of the church we read about in the Bible.

When completely and properly organized a congregation is self-governed (Acts 14:23) and composed of elders, deacons, minister, and members, “Paul and Timotheus [ministers - 1 Timothy 4:6 - LY], the servants of Jesus Christ [the King in heaven - 1 Timothy 1:17 - LY], to all the saints [members - 1 Corinthians 12:27 - LY] in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops [elders - Titus 1:5-7 - LY] and deacons [deacons - 1 Timothy 3:10 - LY].

The church of the Bible will not assign flattering titles unto its members but uses terms descriptive of their work or qualifications (Job 32:21-22 and Matthew 23:1-12). Reverend is a name for God (Psalm 111:9) and pastor is a name referring to the work of an elder (Ephesians 4:11). Ministers and preachers minister and preach the word (2 Timothy

4:1-5) and deacons are servants of the church (Acts 6:1-7). Since the church is Christ’s body (Colossians 1:18), His kingdom (Colossians 1:13), His family (Ephesians 3:14-15), it should wear His name and not the name of some man (Romans 16:16).

In order to be saved and to become a member of this church a person must hear (Romans 10:17), believe (Romans 10:9-10), repent (Acts 17:30-31), confess (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (Acts 2:37-39). Then he or she must continue faithful until death (Revelation 2:10).

This church will worship God on the first day of every week (Acts 20:7) by giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2), partaking of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7), singing (Ephesians 5:19), praying (1 Corinthians 14:15-17), and preaching (Acts 20:7).

Time and space doesn’t allow us to consider the work or mission of the church (Ephesians 4:12), its creed (2 Timothy 3:16-17), its purity (Ephesians 5:25-27), and its destination (1 Peter 1:3-4). But, all a person needs to do in order to know what the church of the Bible teaches on these things is to read the Bible.

### **Conclusion**

There is but one true church and to find it all we need to do is to read the Bible and to ask ourselves the question “Is the church which I attend the church which I read about in the Bible”? If not, may I suggest you visit a Church of Christ near you?

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the  
30th Annual Mid-West Lectures,  
“*I Know*”

To hear or view the complete lesson go to  
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# **I Know...**

## **There Is Only One Church (And How To Find It)**

by  
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*International Bible Studies*  
Tract Series