

GOD'S

ETERNAL

PURPOSE

**PART
ONE OF
TWO**

THE CHURCH: GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN

"The kingdom (i.e., the church) has always existed..."

PURPOSE

(EPH. 3:1-14)

PROMISE

(GEN. 12:1-3; *et al.*)

PROPHECY

(ISA. 2:2,3; DAN. 2:44; *et al.*)

PREPARATION

(MATT. 3:2; 4:17; 28:19; ACTS 1:4-8; *et al.*)

PERFECTION

(ACTS 2:1-4; 4:32-37; 8:4; *et al.*)



ONLY ONE CHURCH??

Of how many "churches" does "the church" consist?

MATTHEW 16:18

"...upon this rock I will build **MY church...**"

ROMANS 12:4,5

"...we have many members in **ONE body**...in Christ"

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-14,20

"this body is **ONE**" "baptized into **ONE body**"

"members of **THE**
body are ONE body"











"many are **ONE body**"

"many members but
ONE body"



IS THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IDENTIFIABLE TODAY?

PROCESS OF IDENTIFICATION

	BASIC TRAITS OF MAMMAL →	WARM-BLOODED	LIVE BIRTH	NURSES YOUNG
NOT MAMMAL	SNAKE?			
NOT MAMMAL	BIRD?			
MAMMAL!	 DOG?			



IS THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IDENTIFIABLE TODAY?

	NT CHURCH	CHURCH A	CHURCH B	CHURCH C	CHURCH D
PLAN OF SALVATION	Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Immersed	God Pre-Elects/ Predetermines	Believe in Jesus, Receive Holy Spirit	Confess Sin, Believe, Ask Jesus Into Heart	Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Be Immersed
PATTERN OF WORSHIP	<i>A Cappella</i> Singing, Study, Prayer, Giving, L.S. every First Day of Week	Choir/Pianist, Prayer, Giving, Sermon, L.S. Yearly	"Praise Band," Prayer, Talk, Lord's Supper Monthly	"Praise Band," Prayer, Talk, Giving, Lord's Supper Quarterly	<i>A Cappella</i> Singing, Study, Prayer, Giving, L.S. every First Day of Week
ORGANIZ. & GOV'T	Jesus Only Head; Pre- Qualified Male Elders/ Deacons (if avail.)	Earthly Head; Single Male "Bishop" over Entire District	Earthly HQ/Heads; Single Male "Pastor"; Male "Elders"/Deacons	Earthly HQ/Heads; Single Female "Pastor"; Male/Female Deacons	Jesus Only Head; Pre- Qualified Male Elders/ Deacons (if avail.)
CREED(S)	New Testament Only	Unalterable Trad. Constitution	Some OT; Some NT; Heart's Desire	No OT; Some NT; Heart's Desire	New Testament Only
NAME	None but Christ	_____ist Church	_____ist Church	_____ist Church	None but Christ
BAPTISM	For Remission of Sins	To Join Church	Just Because	To Join Church	For Remission of Sins
KINGDOM	Is Here / Is = Church	Not Here	Not Here	Not Here	Is Here / Is = Church
APOSTASY	Very Possible	Impossible	Impossible	Impossible	Very Possible

IS THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH IDENTIFIABLE TODAY?

The New Testament church is the assembly of people who have **obeyed the gospel**; who wear no other name but **Christ's**; and who use nothing but His **New Testament** as their **authority**, **pattern**, and **guide** in **all things**.

1 TIMOTHY 3:15

"...**the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the truth**."

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