

THE KNIGHTSVILLE LAMP

WHAT THE CHURCH IS NOT

The church is not what many think. By learning what the church is not, we can better understand what the church is. The church is not:

1. *The Meeting House.* Paul taught, “God...dwelleth not in temples made by hands” (Acts 17:24). The church is made up of “lively stones” (1Peter 2:5).

2. *A Denomination.* The church is neither Catholic, Jewish or Protestant; it is nondenominational. Denominations are “church” started by men, but the Lord’s church is of divine origin (Mt. 16:18). “Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it...” (Ps. 127:1).

3. *A Political Organization.* The Lord’s church has no political agenda. Jesus taught, “My kingdom is not of this world...but now is my kingdom not from hence” (Jn 18:36). There are the things of “Caesar” and the “things that are God’s” (Mt 22:21).

4. *A Social Institution.* The Romans were told, “For the kingdom is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Rom. 14:17). The church has not been charged with the work of providing recreation and entertainment for its members (1 Tim 5:16). The church has been given a divine work. Paul preached, “For the perfecting of the

saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12).

5. *One member.* Paul told the Corinthians, “For the body is not one member, but many” (1 Cor. 12:14). The body is the church (Col. 1:18). Therefore, the church is not one member, but many! Jesus stated, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Mt. 18:20).

6. *A Religious Convenience Center.* The church does not exist merely to help families in marrying their young, burying their dead, and providing some occasional spiritual balm to accommodate an otherwise worldly disposition. Some use the church like the local convenience store—they drop in and out at their own convenience. The church is so important that it was part of God’s eternal purpose (Eph. 3:11).

While the church is not many things, it is all that the Scriptures teach it to be. May God bless you in identifying the one true church.

Johnnie Paul Edwards

SCRIPTURAL STEPS INTO CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

Faith is the result of hearing God’s word (Rom. 10:17). “We walk by faith, not by sight” (2Cor. 5:17). When we walk, we take steps.

1. *Hear.* “...Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (Jn. 8:24).

2. *Believe.* “...for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24).

3. *Repent.* “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:3).

4. *Confess Faith In Christ.* “I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God” (Acts 8:37).

5. *Baptized Into Christ and The Body.* Baptism puts us into Christ (Gal. 3:27). And into the body of Christ (1Cor. 12:13), the church.

When we take these scriptural steps of faith, we enter CHRIST and the Lord adds us to His church (Acts 2:47). We are then members of the Body of Christ, the one true church, and recipients of all spiritual blessings in Christ. Take these Scriptural steps now!