

What We Believe

The purpose of this topic is to help us in the church to understand why we do things the way we do and to back it up with Scripture. It is important to know what we believe and why. This is especially true when we invite new people to church so that fear and doubt do not influence our decisions to invite people to church.

A. WHY WE HAVE NO NAME OR DENOMINATION

1. We are non-denomination; what does this mean and why?

(Examples of denominations are Baptist, Evangelical Free, Catholic, Lutheran, Assembly of God, etc.)

- a. The Bible never mentions any denomination.
- b. The Bible only refers to a many-membered body of believers called “the church.”
- c. In the Bible “church” means “called out ones.” The definition of “church” from the Greek, language that the New Testament is translated from, is:
 1. A calling out
 2. A community of members
 3. An assembly
- d. We believe the denominational system can never be unified. History has proven this. The Bible says that there is only “one body...one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Eph. 4:4-6)
Eph. 4:4-6
Gal. 3:28
- e. The Body of Christ, “The Church,” is a spiritual, living entity made up of believers, not denominations. Believers are identified in the Bible as the church, not denominations.
Gal. 1:1-2
Phil. 1:1
Eph. 1:1
Col. 1:2

2. We are Non-Sectarian (refusing to be called by a name).

We have no name other than “the church.”

Why do we do this?

- a. We follow the example in the Bible; the Bible never refers to its believers by a denominational name. It simply refers to a body of believers meeting at a certain place; for example, the Church at Ephesus.
Acts 8:1 There was persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem
Rom. 16:1 The Church at Cenchrea
1 Cor. 1:2 The Church at Corinth
2 Cor. 1:1 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth
Rev. 2:1 The Church at Ephesus
2:8 The Church at Smyrna
2:12 The Church at Pergamos
2:18 The Church at Thyatira
3:1 The Church at Sardis
3:7 The Church at Philadelphia

3:14 The Church at Laodicea

I'd like to add a few more: The Churches at High Point, St. Charles, Edmonton, Winkler, Stratford, Charlotte, Peoria, Minden, Kingsport, Brooklyn, etc.

- b. The day we give ourselves a name other than "the church", we run the risk of identifying ourselves by that name and not by Christ. When someone who has met us walks away, hopefully they will have seen Christ and not the "1st Northern Pentecostal Church of the Moving of the Spirit!!!"

3. Why do we use the name "Global Missions?"

The name Global Missions is a legal entity to satisfy government requirements for tax purposes and to remain within the law. The Scriptures clearly teach that we are to obey the law and those that have authority over us.

Rom. 13:1-7

Heb. 13:17

4. We are not Separatist.

- a. We in this move of the Spirit don't believe that we are the only ones that make up "the church." We cannot lose sight of the coming together of the Body of Christ from many different areas and the backgrounds.
- b. We don't think that we are any better than any other believers.
- c. We don't know everything or have all revelation.
- d. God is speaking to His Church; those that have an ear to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. That does not just include us; we're not "it."

B. CHURCH BUILDINGS AND FORMAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. We do not normally own building to worship in; why?

- a. The church is a people who believe in Christ, not a building. We believe that the emphasis should be on the "Body," not the "building."
- b. Cost! We believe that God's money can be better used for the administration of funds for missions, church administration, the poor, etc. This is in alignment with Christ's teaching and example.

2. We do not believe in formal church membership; why?

- a. The Bible only identifies born-again believers; not church members.
- b. There are not different levels of believers; all are equal, whether they are a member of a certain church or not. Believers in Jesus Christ are all equal.

1 Peter 1:23

John 1:12-13

John 3:5

Matt. 20:1-16

John 13:13-17

Matt. 20:26-28

Gal. 3:28

- c. In the words of Bro. H. Holt: "You cannot join the church, you must be born of God into it. Card membership is unacceptable."
- d. Our services are open to *anyone anytime*, regardless of their background or position in life.

C. WE USE THE EARLY CHURCH AS OUR MODEL

It is the only example that there is in the Bible.

1. We have elders (plural) instead of a pastor (singular).

a. In the Bible, “elders” are always set, never an “elder”. We believe that Scripture does not support a one-man ministry, such as a pastor with a board of elders voting him in or out. However, an elder may have the ministry of a pastor or teacher. Scripture clearly points out that the headship of the local church is taken by multiple elders, each taking the oversight of the church but in submission to each other. All are equal; there is no “head elder.”

Acts 14:23

Acts 11:30

Acts 15:2,4,6,22,23

Acts 16:4

Acts 20:7

Titus 1:5

c. Jesus never sent people out alone.

d. The definition of a bishop (the same as an elder) from the Greek is:
officer in charge of a church, the oversee, overseer,
superintendent, to beware, to take the oversight, look diligently

e. Qualifications of an elder:

1 Tim. 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-9

f. Responsibilities of an elder:

1 Peter 5:1-4

James 5:14

g. Elders are set of God by the laying on of hands. This is done after prayer and agreement between the apostolic ministries. They cannot be voted in or out. The Holy Spirit indicates who should be set in as an elder.

Acts 13:1-3

Acts 6:1-6

h. Local elders work at jobs at the local level.

Acts 20:33-35

Acts 18:3

2. Deacons are helpers for the elders and the church.

Acts 6:1-6

a. The qualifications for a deacon are the same as those for an elder.

1 Tim. 3:8-13

b. Deacons can do anything an elder can do but under the authority of the elders.

c. The ultimate responsibility still rests on the elders.

d. A deacon is “set in” in the same way as an elder—by the leading of the Holy Spirit, not by voting.

3. We believe in an apostolic church order using the fivefold ministry with Christ as the Head.

Eph. 4:11-16

1 Cor. 12:28

see schematic

4. We believe in tithing.

- a. Tithing is an ordinance of God; it was in place before the Levitical law was established.
Gen. 14:20
Malachi 3:7-15
1 Cor. 16:2

5. We believe in the nine gifts of the Spirit.

- a. There are nine spiritual gifts named in the Bible in 1 Cor. 12:4-11:

Word of wisdom
Word of knowledge
Gift of faith
Gifts of healing
Working of miracles
Gift of prophecy
Discerning of spirits
Various kinds of tongues
Interpretation of tongues

There are only nine gifts mentioned. That's it!

- b. We believe that gifts are imparted by the laying on of hands of the presbytery.

*A presbytery is a council of elders.

1 Tim. 4:14

Rom. 1:11

- c. We believe that each person is a member in particular with a valuable ministry.

- d. We believe that one can have many God-given talents but these are not spirituals or gifts; they are natural and carnal. Spiritual gifts only operate by the Holy Spirit through a submissive, Spirit-filled believer.

D. OUR SERVICES

1. We have no format for our services.

- a. The order of our meetings is not predetermined. Our services are led by the Spirit.

Rom. 8:14

Gal. 5:16

- b. Having a schedule for the service emphasizes man's plans instead of God's plans. We don't want to push the Spirit out of our meetings.

- c. We have no time limit for our services. We believe that a set time limit will limit the moving of God's Spirit. When God moves, we should move with Him.

Ex. 40:34-38

2. We believe in a "body ministry;" any member may give as he is led.

1 Cor. 14:26

Rom. 12:4-8

3. We believe in prophecy; God speaking to believers through believers.

- a. Prophecy is to build up and lead the church. It's also how God can bring revelation to the church.

1 Cor. 14

1 Thes. 5:19-20

4. We believe in healing but the laying on of hands of the elders and in anointing with oil to heal the sick.

James 5:14

5. We believe in foot washing.

John 13:1-17

6. We believe in praising and singing in service.

Ps. 1-150

7. We believe in singing in the Spirit.

Ps. 149:1

Ps. 22:3

1 Cor. 14:26

Eph. 5:19

8. We believe in child dedication.

1 Sam. 1

9. We believe in head coverings.

1 Cor. 11:3-12

10. We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2

Acts 11:16

Acts 8:15-17

Acts 10:44-48

Acts 15:7-8

Acts 19:1-6

John 14:17,26

John 15:26,27

- a. Speaking in tongues is an evidence of the filling of the Spirit, and is a personal prayer language to build up the believer.

1 Cor. 14

11. We believe in water baptism by immersion.

- a. We believe that baptism should take place after a person is old enough to make a conscious choice to turn his/her life over to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:36-39

Romans 6:4

12. We believe in the Holy Communion.

1 Cor. 11:17-34

Matt. 26: 26-28

- a. We use unleavened bread; in the Bible, leaven is always used as a type of sin.

Ex. 13:3, 6-7

1 Cor. 5:6-8

b. We use wine, not grape juice. Wine is what Jesus used at the Last Supper, and wine has been purified through the process of fermentation.