

CHRIST IS NOT SEPARATED FROM THE CHURCH

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Text: Rom. 8:35-39

INTRODUCTION

1. What do you think: does the church a person attend matter in terms of his or her salvation?
2. Do you think the church which a person is a member of, can help him gave salvation or be lost eternally?
3. Should we preach ONLY the Gospel without or minus the Church?
4. Can we separate Christ from the church? **Rom. 8:35-39**
5. Again, is there a church in the Bible at all?
6. Is one church as good as another? Remember some go to church on Saturday others on Sunday, some wear footwear others don't, some allow for marriage for their preachers others don't. Are all the same?
7. Is Mama Pat "Agraadaa" church as good as Osofo Mensah Otabil's ICGC church?
8. Is Obinim's church the same as Methodist, Presby, Catholic Churches?
9. Is Adom Kyei Duah's church as good as Agyen Asare's Perez chapel or Duncan Williams Action Chapel?
10. If your answer is No or Maybe or Yes, why??
11. In this lesson we will consider answering the following questions and many others.
 - ❖ Does the Bible talk about God establishing/building a house which is the church?
 - ❖ Did He build that house?
 - ❖ Do we see any church in the Bible?
 - ❖ Does a person need to be in the church to be saved?
 - ❖ What is the relationship between Christ and the church?
 - ❖ Can we preach Christ and ignore the church?
12. We will consider three (3) main points.
 - a. The Church of The Christ.
 - b. The Christ of The Church.
 - c. The Church of the Christ Saves.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE CHURCH OF THE CHRIST

Here we are going to answer three questions:

- ❖ Does the Bible talk about God establishing/building a house which is the church?
- ❖ Did He build that house?
- ❖ Do we see any church in the Bible?

A. THE CHURCH IS THE HOUSE THAT WAS TO BE BUILT.

1. David desired to establish a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1-5)
2. God rather promised to raise a seed of David after his death who shall build a house for the Lord (2 Sam. 7:6-13),
3. Solomon built the Temple and God accepted the house (2 Chron. 6:8-13; 2 Chron. 7:1-5; 14-16).
4. Yet, after the dedication of the temple in 977 BC, in 235 years later Micah and Isaiah prophesied of God building His house (Micah 4:1-2; Isaiah 2:2-5).
5. The church was built in the last Days – **Isa. 2; Dan.2; Joel 2** - Acts 2:14, 29-33
6. JESUS is the Builder of the House – Mat. 16:16-19; Luke 1:30-33; Isa. 9:6-7
7. The House is the Church which all nations flow into – 1 Tim. 3:14-15; Isa. 2:3; Mat. 28:18-20

B. THE CHURCH IS A KINGDOM THAT GOD WAS TO SET UP.

1. That in the days of the fourth (Romans') kingdom, God will establish His kingdom (Dan. 2:44-45).
2. The kingdom will be given to the Son of Man who came before the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:13-14).
3. The Son would receive it and give to the saints to possess it forever (Dan. 7:14, 18).
4. The Son will reign in the house and the kingdom forever (Luke 1:33; 2 Sam. 7:13-14).
5. The True Worship is done in the church which is the Kingdom – **John 4:21-23; Heb. 12:28-29; Acts 2:42-44, 47.**
6. The Church is the House and the Kingdom at the same time.
7. Now, let us pinpoint some of the things that prove that the church is the same as the kingdom. The following are things done in the **church**, and the same are practiced in **the kingdom** hence the church and the kingdom are the same.
 - a. We enter all by **Baptism:**
Church - **Acts 8:1,4,12; Acts 2:38, 47**
Kingdom - **John 3:3-5**
 - b. **We eat the Lord's Supper in all:**
Church - **1 Cor. 11:20, 23-25; Acts 2:42**
Kingdom - **Luke 22:29-30**
 - c. **We are called Saints in all:**
Church - **1 Cor. 1:1-2;**
Kingdom - **Col. 1:12-13**
 - d. **We all face same Judgment:**
Church - **1 Pet. 4:17-18**

Kingdom - **Matt. 25:31-34** (cf. Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 15:24)

e. **We are called Kings and Priests at the same time.**

Church - Royal Priesthood - **Rev. 5:9-10, 1 Pet. 2:9-10** (Col. 1:12-13)

Kingdom - Holy Nation - **Rev. 5:9-10, 1 Pet. 2:9-10**

II. THE CHRIST OF THE CHURCH

Here we shall seek to answer the questions.

- ❖ What is the relationship between Christ and the church?
- ❖ Can we preach Christ and ignore the church?

From the discussion so far, will it be possible to preach Christ and not His church? The better answer to this question would simply be let the Bible speak. The nature of the church relative to the position of Christ would determine whether they can be separable or inseparable. The early church preached Christ and the Kingdom (Acts 8:12). Let us discuss seven reasons why the church and Christ cannot be separated.

A. THE CHURCH AS A BODY

The church is the Body of Christ (One Body) - **Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:17-18, 24; Col. 2:17; Col. 3:15**

Jesus Christ is the **HEAD** of His body – **Eph. 1:21-23; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23**

Hence: The Head cannot be separated from the Body.

B. THE CHURCH AS A HOUSE

The church is the House of God (One House) - **2 Sam. 7:12-14, Isa. 2:2-3, 1 Tim 3:15**

Jesus Christ is the **BUILDER** of His House – **Luke 1:30-33, Mat. 16:18-19, Heb. 3:1-6; Heb. 11:10**

Hence: The Builder cannot be separated from His House.

C. THE CHURCH AS A KINGDOM

The church is the Kingdom of God - **2 Sam. 7:13; Dan. 2:44-45; Mat. 16:19; Mark 9:1; Acts 1:6-8; Acts 2:29-33; Acts 8:4-6,12; Col. 1:12-13; Luke 22:29-30**

Jesus Christ is the **KING** of His Kingdom – **Rev. 1:5; Zec. 6:12-13; Rev. 17:14; Rev. 19:16; 1 Tim 6:13-15**

Hence: The KING cannot be separated from His Kingdom.

D. THE CHURCH AS A BRIDE

The church is the Bride/Wife of Jesus - **2 Cor. 11:1-3** (cf. Jer. 31:31-32, Jer. 11:10); **Eph. 5:22-32; Rev. 21:1-3, 9-11** (John 1:29); **Rev. 22:16-17**

Jesus Christ is the **BRIDEGROOM/HUSBAND** of His Wife – **Eph. 5:23-27, 32-33; Rev. 21:3; 9** (cf. Rev. 5:5-6; John 1:29).

Hence: The BRIDEGROOM/HUSBAND cannot be separated from His Bride/Wife.

E. THE CHURCH AS A PRIESTHOOD

The church is the Royal Priesthood of God - **1 Pet. 2:4-5, 9-10; Eph. 2:19-22; Rev. 5:9-10**

Jesus Christ is the **HIGH PRIEST** of the Priesthood – **Heb. 4:15-16; Heb. 6:20; Heb 7:11-14; Heb. 8:1-4; 6 (cf. Zec. 6:12-13)**

Hence: The HIGH PRIEST cannot be separated from His Priesthood.

F. THE CHURCH AS A VINEYARD

The church is the Branches - **John 15:1-6**

Jesus Christ is the **VINE** – **John 15:1, 4-6**

Hence: The VINE and the BRANCHES cannot be separated.

G. THE CHURCH AS A FLOCK

The church is the Sheep/Flock of God - **John 10:7-12, 26-28; Acts 20:28; Mat. 25:31-34.**

Jesus Christ is the **GOOD/CHIEF SHEPHERD** – **John 10:11, 27; 1 Pet. 5:1-4 - Heb. 13:20**

Hence: The GOOD SHEPHERD cannot be separated from His Sheep.

III. THE CHURCH OF THE CHRIST(Alone) SAVES

Here we shall seek to answer the question.

- ❖ Does a person need to be in the church to be saved?
- ❖ Is it **ONLY** the church of Christ that saves?

- A. He saves those who have washed their Robes. **Rev. 22:14-17; Acts 2:47 (cf. Mark 16:15-16).**
- B. He saves those who have become children of God. **Gal. 3:26-29; John 1:10-13**
- C. He saves those who have contacted the Blood of Christ. (Where does your blood circulate; inside or outside your body?). - **Rom. 6:2-5; John 19:33-34**
- D. He saves those in His Kingdom - **Mat. 4:17; 1 Cor. 15:23-24; Col. 1:12-13.**
- E. He saves those who enter the House by the Narrow Gate – **Mat. 7:13-14; 21-23; 24-29**
 - 1. Like Those in Noah's Day – **Gen. 6:13-15; 22**
 - 2. Like Rahab and her household – **Joshua 2:12-14; 17-19 – Joshua 6:22-23**
 - 3. Like Those in the Cities of Refuge – **Joshua 20:1-9**
- F. He saves those who abide in the doctrine of Christ. **2 John 8-9; 1 John 5:11-13**

CONCLUSION

1. There is a church in the Bible that belongs to Christ.
2. The church does not rule herself but subject herself to the Lord.
3. Just as our wives are to submit to the Head and Rulership of their homes.
4. Can we separate the church/body from the Head?
5. If not, then what makes you think we can preach Christ and not His church?
6. Christ is coming again; all His angels will be in the sky with Him and the saved shall join Him in the air. Will you be in Heaven?
7. INVITATION

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