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Describe The 20th Century Church Of Christ

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DESCRIBE THE 20TH CENTURY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Moonshine is Poison

- I. Because of common interest its a joy to attempt to describe the church of Christ.
 - A. To those that are members it is impossible to describe it without turning to the 1st century when we believe the church was established. This necessitates a Bible orientated description of origin and purpose.
 1. It is earnestly believed there is the church of Christ described in the Bible and its sincerely wished that today we might be members of such.
 - B. To those not members the theological reasonings of honest minds as to when, and how it started and through what trials it has come could be less than interesting. ~~Those~~ members of it feel this information is most important, the average non-member simply asks "What is its contribution, work, service, and purpose of today -- forget the musty past."
 1. Thinking in the audience are those belonging to both these classes we will seek to serve both honest inquirers in our presentation.
- II. What better way is there to describe the church than to do an acrostic on the word "church" itself.
 - A. The definition I'm sure is known.

I. Church comes from ekklesia, the called out, the congregation, the assembly. (2)

a. Used 192x in one Eng. translation.

b. 4x refers to non-Christian groups.

Acts 19:32 "Some therefore ^{ess. confused} cried one thing ^{determine by law of assembly}

Acts 19:39 "But if ye inquire any thing con

Acts 19:41 "And when he had thus spoken, ^{dismissed assembly}

Acts 7:38 "This is he, that was in the chu

c. Perhaps its most famous usage is by

Jesus: *Card 1, 2, 3 on church*

Matt. 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, Tha

B. Could we then do an acrostic on church, hoping these 6 letters will impart some information.

1. Though 6 has a semi-completion to us, it also bows to Jewish usage and professes in this short span of time to be inconclusive. *Thus you must keep studying*

2. 'Tis hoped 6 observations will help.

II. Acrostic on church.

A. Our 6 letters.

1. C-creed.

2. H-head.

3. U-unity.

4. R-religion.

5. C-called.

6. H-hope.

B. Chronologically we approach.

1. C stands for Creed.

a. Creed comes from Latin "I believe."

b. Does the church, written or unwritten

have a creed?

3

c. I believe Christ is the Son of God.

Acts 2:22 "Ye men of Israel, hear these

Acts 8:5 "Then Phillip went down to

John 20:30-31 "And many other signs

Acts 8:12 "But when they believed P.

Matt. 16:16 "Thou art the Christ the

2 Tim. 1:12 "I know whom I have believed

Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in a

John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the

d. What's distinctive about this?

(1) Either/or choice -- son of God or blasphemy (John 7:28).

(2) Accept virgin birth, miracles, resurrection, ascension of Jesus.

(3) Literally its believed that he is all he said he was.

I Tim. 3:16 "And without controversy

Rev. 19:16 "And he hath on his vest

(4) The sonship of Christ is Heavenly required confession of all.

2. H is for Head.

a. That every body has a head surely is an accepted fact.

(1) Eugene Johnson of Hartsville told of capturing and dressing a turtle. "1/2 hr. to boat him as hooked in leg, jaw broken with screwdriver, head cut off but heart kept beating and claws tore me up as I dressed him, cut feet off."

I'd say that headless fighter was a bit

than normal! Most bodies have heads!

- b. Head of church of Christ. ^{"to be rubbed on" - printed} (4)
Eph. 1:22-23 "And hath put all things under
Matt. 28:18 "All power is given unto me
Matt. 16:18 "And I say unto thee that
John 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man
John 12:47-48 "And if any man hear my

(1) A head is essential to permanency.

(2) The function of a head is to give direction.

(3) This Jesus, not man, does today.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 "All scrip. is given by

2 Pet. 1:3 "According as his divine

c. What's the significance of this?

(1) Church is not a legislative body.

(2) It has no earthly headquarters.

(3) No one can speak for the church, some speak against it and too much but none as its voice.

(4) None can "organize" the church.

(a) American Bible Society -- how do we get to your people?

(b) No census taken for years.

(c) Scoffing at church rolls. The Lord knows them that are his.

(d) Organization at a bear minimum.

(5) Temptation to polarize around strong voices; i.e. papers, colleges, personalities.

(a) Church doesn't have bishops -- has editors!

3. U stands for Unity

5

- a. Here dreams arise and also know shattering.
- b. The dream is that with the Bible as a standard of authority saints may be one in Christ.

Acts 4:32" And the multitude of them

Eph. 4:4-6" There is one body, and one Spirit

I Cor. 1:10" Now I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God

I Cor. 1:12-13" I am of Paul, & I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ

I Cor. 3:3" For ye are yet carnal--divisive, jealous, and angry

Rom. 16:17-18" Mark them which cause divisions, and

Acts 9:2" That if he found any of this sect, he should kill them

John 17:20-21" Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also

Gal. 5:19-20 Variance work of flesh

- c. Dream shattered--we're externally and internally divided. *J. Mott quote*

(1) Over rebaptism, premillenniumism, orphan homes, dogmatism.

(2) Ours always over doctrine--never morals.

(3) Each man feels he has "Bible on his side."

(4) Main stream of this still at peace and in unity today.

- d. Significance.

(1) What is standard of authority?

(a) Matters of faith--doctrine.

(b) Matters of opinion--liberty.

(c) All things--love.

(2) Must morals and doctrine be equally

viewed--are they of kindred importance

(3) Is there a difference between fellowship and endorsement--could Paul teach in school of Tarranus without endorsing all that's there? (6)

(4) Does a little deviation matter?

Scott #5

(5) Thus we claim not to be the only Christians but Christians only.

4. R is our letter for Religion.

Didn't want to know that much

a. It means binding back to God.

b. Qt.: How is one bound then back to God?

John 11:27 "Yea Lord, I believe that thou

John 8:24 "If ye believe not that I am

Rom. 2:4 "Despisest thou the riches of his

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye re

Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore, and be co

2 Pet. 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerni

Acts 8:36 "A nd as they went on their way

John 3:3-5 "Jesus answered and said unto

Rom. 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with h

Mk. 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptize

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Rep

Gal. 3:27 "For as many of you as have bee

Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? ar

I Pet. 3:21 "The like figure whereunto ever

Acts 10:48 "And he commanded them to be

c. It's believed salvation and church membership are on the same conditions.

Acts 2:47 "Praising God, and having favor

Acts 5:14 "And believers were the more a

Eph. 1:22-23 "And hath put all things unde

Cond #6

And the Lord added. added to the Lord, multitudes

(1) Added to the Lord, added to body -- same act at same time.

d. "But what's peculiar to that religion?" and this is asked in a good sense. I'll name some items.

(1) Name of church multiple.

(a) Church.

Acts 9:31 "Then had the churches

(b) Of God.

I Cor. 1:2 "Unto the church of God

(c) Of firstborn.

Heb. 12:23 "To the general assembly

(d) Of Christ.

Rom. 16:16 "The churches of Christ sa

(e) Body.

I Cor. 12:27 "Now ye are the body.

(f) Saints.

I Cor. 14:33 "For God is not the author

(2) Name of members.

Acts 26:28 "Almost thou persuadest me t

Acts 11:26 "And the disciples were calle

I Pet. 4:16 "If any man suffer as a Christ

(3) Organization of the organism.

(a) Elders.

Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto

[1] Also bishop, overseer, pastor, teacher, presbyter

[2] Qualifications I Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-10.

[a] Yet we do little about their work thus failing to see things to which

the qualifications pointed.

(b) Deacons.

Phil. 1:1 "Paul and Timotheus, the serv

(c) No clergy - laity separation, no Rev.

(d) No women preachers. *Cond #7*

[1] Husband head of wife. *8*

[2] Elder husband of one wife. *9*

I Cor. 14:33-35 "For God is not the au

I Tim. 2:12-14 "But I suffer not a wom

(e) Congregational autonomy. *#10411*

(f) Worship via 5 avenues, with weekly

observance of Lord's supper.

[1] Sing.

[2] Pray.

[3] Preach.

[4] Give.

[5] Commune.

(g) Aim is to walk in the steps of Christ

as guided by word.

Eph. 4:1 "Walk worthy of the vocation

Col. 1:10 "That ye walk worthy of the

wrote all blessing, fruitful

(h) Each church handles its discipline.

Gal. 6:1 "Br. if a man be overtaken

I Cor. 5:11 "With such an one no not to

2 Thess. 3:6 "Withdraw yourselves from

Titus 3:10 "A man that is an heretick a

(i) Evangelical spirit.

[1] Yet how can you export something if it isn't good for you!!

5. C is called.

a. What names will you accept?

(1) Christian = Follower of Christ.

(2) Disciple.

73x in Matt.

44x in Mark.

38x in Luke.

73x in John.

31x in Acts.

= 259 X

(a) Though not in epistles shows one taught and trained.

(3) Saints -- called out.

*Sanctified on left
Saints on right*

(4) Brethren.

b. Call Bible things by Bible names -- yet Bible not in it!

c. Search for conviction and character.

Rom. 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the

6. H-the Hope.

a. To evangelize world.

Mk. 16:15 "And he said unto them, Go ye

b. Speaks as oracles of God.

2 Tim. 2:2 "And the things that thou hast
Jude 3 "Beloved, when I gave all diligence

c. Be current recipient of Grace of God.

(1) Justified.

Rom. 5:1 "Therefore being justified by f

(2) Forgiven.

I John 2:12 "I write unto you, little child;

(3) Redeemed.

I Pet. 1:18-19 "Forasmuch as ye know th

(4) Saved.

Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness

d. Like Jesus go about doing good.

Acts 10:38 Jesus of N. . . who went about
Rom. 8:29" For whom he did foreknow he
e. Faithful unto death and await His return.
Matt. 24:42-44" Watch therefore: for ye k
Acts 1:10-11" And while they looked stead
2 Thess. 1:7-8" And to you who are troub

West End - 4/23/67
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