Is the Church of Christ a Cult?

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INTRODUCTION

- When this question is raised, is the church of Christ a cult? Like in so many discussions about religious things, there is often a communication barrier.
- We have no organizational link with any other church, not in Texas, not in the United States, not in the world, that affects what we can teach or do here.
- Understand that we're talking about the church that belongs to Jesus.

1 A Negatively Charged Word

- The intention oftentimes is to use this negatively charged word.
- It's a negatively charged word. To disparage whatever it is that we represent in our view of God's word.
- Belittling something does not disprove its validity. That's just subjectivity. That's not objectivity.

2 Labeling Something Proves Little

Proverbs 1:29–33; John 6

- Cults exist that impose tactics that are not God honoring, that are wrongfully controlling and destructive. They claim to be about truth, but they are not.
- So cults do exist. And God doesn't approve of some of those tactics. Labeling something proves little.
- Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord. They would not accept my counsel. They spurned all my reproof.
- If you don't want to sign on to it, we will not force you. We will not tell you whom you can and cannot associate.
- Peter knew where wisdom came from. To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

3 You Need Inclusion in the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 2:15; Acts 2:47

- You need inclusion in the body of Christ, period.
- You need to be in that body. If it's not us, wherever it is, whoever it is, whoever is teaching it, you need to be in it.
- He has either placed you in the group or he has not. I don't determine it. He does.
- The Lord added to the church daily those who are being saved.
- Are we advancing the message? His message, and practicing the things that make us truly the Lord's people.

4 The Faith and Actions That Produce Christians

1 Peter 3:21

- All the actions that matter in coming into Christ in a right relationship with God and the Son, are all fueled by faith.
- The faith and actions that produce Christians in the first century produces Christians in the 21st century.
- Baptism doth also now save us, not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer or the appeal to God for a clean conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Baptism is the culminating step. It is the step of faith that we make an appeal to God based on our repentance.
- When I'm being baptized, I'm not just complying with the command. I'm saying, God save me by the blood of Jesus Christ.

5 The Greatest Responsibility Is Living as Christ

- The greatest responsibility is living as Christ.
- I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. Those are our marching orders.
- God wants us to glorify him to tell everyone how wonderful he is so that he can work in their lives too.
- For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have clothed yourselves with Christ.
- Growing in Christ involves a committed pursuit of that for the rest of your days.

THE CHALLENGE

Keep going. Never stop. May God help you. May God help us all to make the supreme choice in life. There is no choice greater.

MY NOTES